The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling

Issue 50 May 1999

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MAGAZINE

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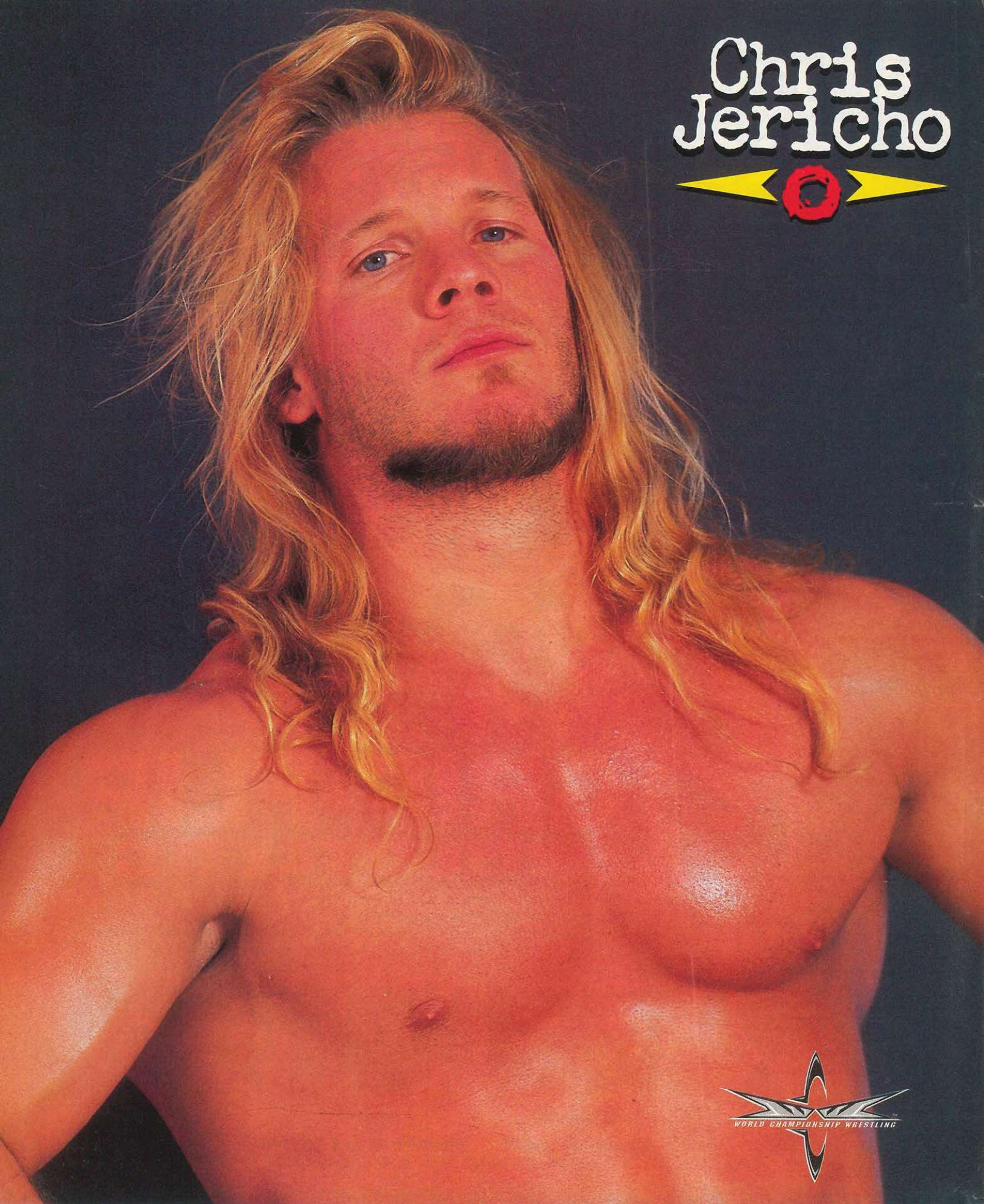
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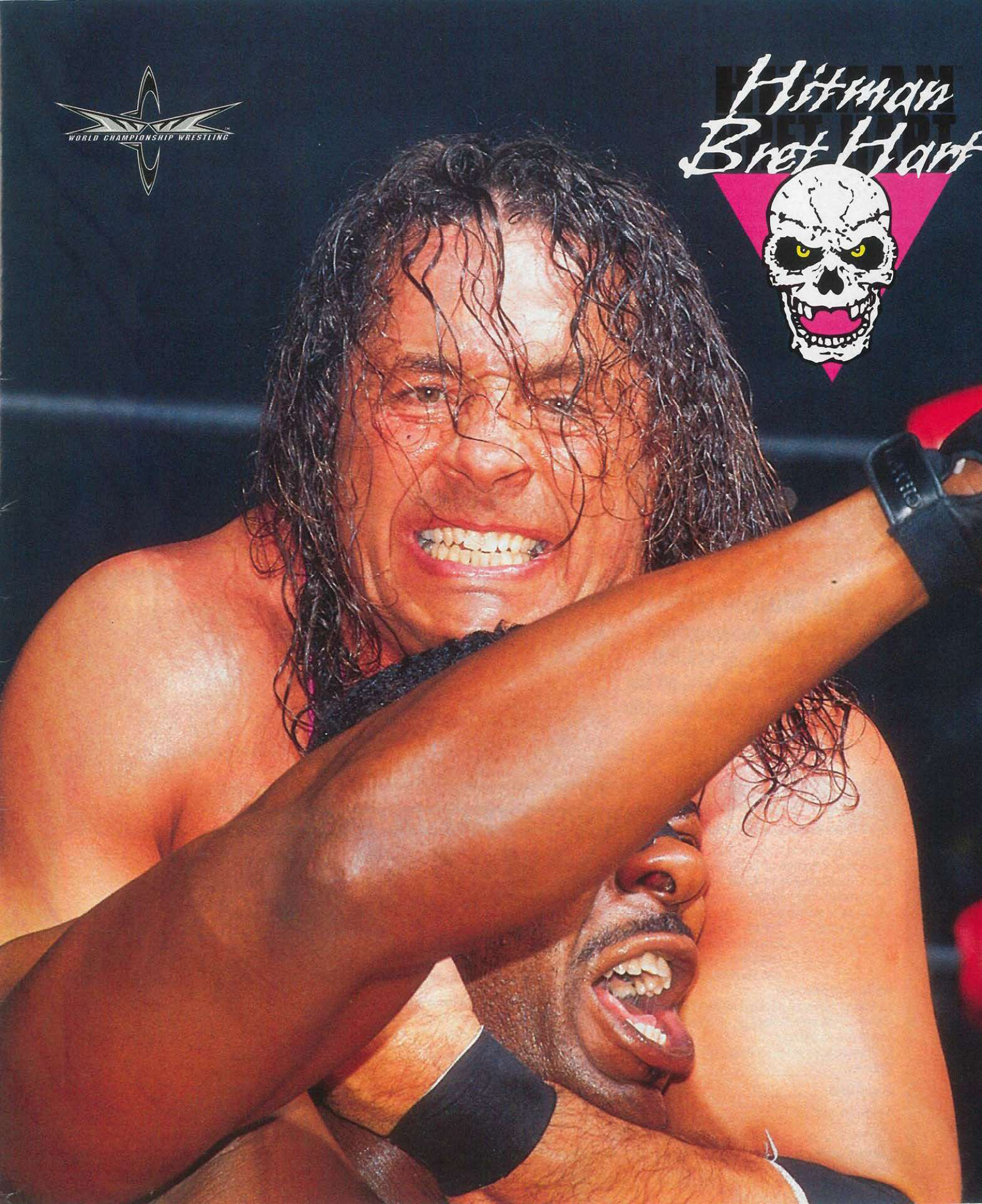
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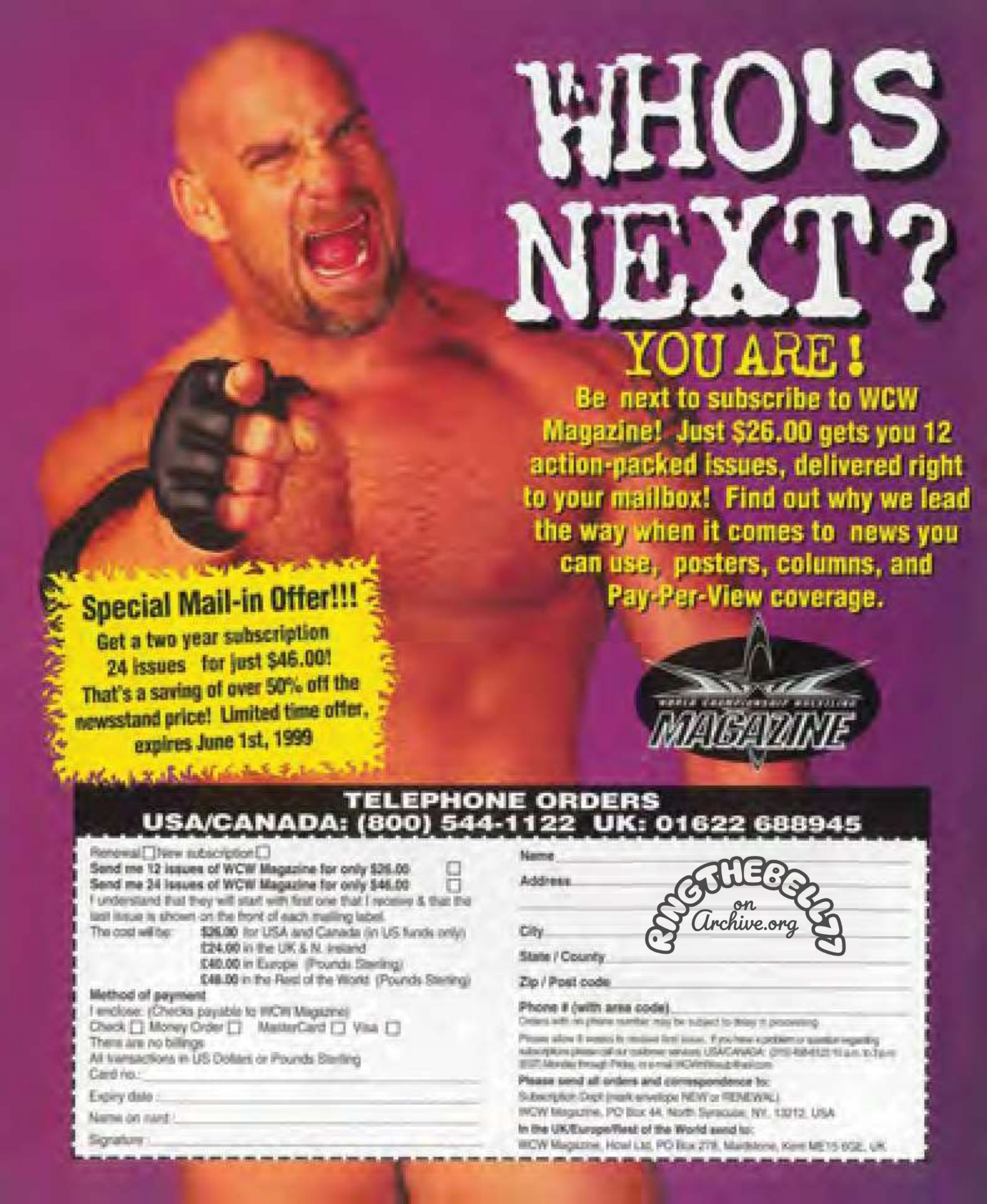
Bret Hart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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING MAGAZINE

COLIN BOWMAN
Editor in Chief/Publisher
Email:WCWnWoMAG@aol.com

PATTY THERRE
Executive Editor
Email:WCWnWoEdit@aol.com

LISA STURGIS
Managing Editor
Email:EditWCW@aol.com

GAYLE STOVER
Photo Editor
Email:WCWnWoFoto@aol.com

BOB SMITH, ROSS FORMAN
BOB RYDER, JEFF KATZ
Staff Writers

TONY SCHIAVONE, MIKE TENAY
BOBBY HEENAN, MARK MADDEN
CHAD DAMIANI, CHRIS JERICHO
KONNAN
Contributors

COLIN BOWMAN, GAYLE STOVER
ROSS FORMAN, TODD KAPLAN
SCOTT CUNNINGHAM
Photography

REBECCA FOX
Editorial Assistant

ELIZABETH BLANKENSHIP
Assistant Photo Editor

DONNA CHESLER
Subscription Service Manager
Email:WCWnWoSub@aol.com

MARTIN COX
Production Manager

LOUANN HALL, ANTHONY PAYNE
Customer Service

KAREN NELSON
Administrator

BILL JOHNSON
Research

RICK PHELPS
Research Assistant

STEVE LAMPON, GAVIN MOWER
Executive Art Directors

BRIAN BENTLEY
Web Site Designer
(972) 618-7709

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EDITOR'S note

Thank you for all of your comments and suggestions about how we can improve WCW Magazine. I hope you like the new look and the extra pages. I ve always said if it wasn t for you, the readers, this magazine wouldn t exist, and I can assure you I will never lose sight of that fact.

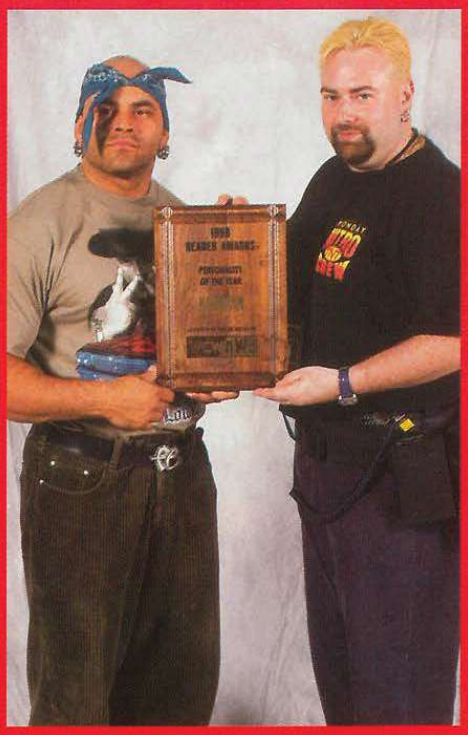
Whoooooo! The guy on the cover of last month s issue became World Champion after we had gone to press. Are we a good luck totem or what? Goldberg, Nash, Hogan, and now Flair all cover boys, all champs. To quote Goldberg ... Who s Next?

Our message to Ric Flair: Congratulations, but please come back down to earth. If you want to be The Dirtiest Player in the Game, do it alone, do not use your power to corrupt WCW s employees. Remember, it wasn t that long ago that you were the victim of a Presidential conspiracy. Beware, I already hear rumblings about impeachment and WCW s Independent Counsel Goldberg will be far more effective than Ken Starr.

Sting is this month s cover icon, and the interview on page 42 is certainly the most revealing he has ever given. No face paint, no howling, no posturing, just Steve the man beneath the paint.

The Reader Awards were also presented since the last time we spoke. You can find a full feature on all the winners in the 1998 Year in Review special issue that has been on the newsstands for a couple of weeks.

It was an honor to present two of the awards Writer of the Year and Personality of the Year to Konnan. K-Dogg is another wrestler straight out of the DDP mold. If everybody was asked for their ideas about what a pro wrestler is supposed to look like, K-Dogg and Page would never top the list, but as far as their popularity goes, they are head and shoulders above most. Both are true anomalies. They have achieved their elite status by sticking to their principles of hard work and by keeping it tru. Konnan was humbled, but thrilled by the awards because you, the readers of this magazine, voted for them. In fact, he was so proud that he went running around the entire arena showing them



to everyone, including the extremely envious Disco Inferno and Chris Jericho.

When you spend your life traveling with guys like K-Dogg, Goldberg, and DDP, to name a few, it is always disappointing to read negative articles about wrestling, or to watch television shows so desperate for ratings that they try to uncover a sinister side of wrestling that doesn t exist. The simple fact of the matter is, that when it comes to the presentation of athletic drama, WCW is in a class of its own. Kevin Nash taking a break from his Big Sexy persona and the Wolfpac/WCW battles obviously shares our frustrations, and those of everybody in WCW, and he took some time to address the current media backlash against wrestling on his web site at www.kevinbigsexynash.com.

Congratulations to Crystal Powell from Beaverdam, VA. She was the Reader Awards balloter pulled out of the hat to win a year s subscription to WCW Magazine, $200 worth of WCW merchandise, and a signed Goldberg picture.

Have you checked out WCW Live at WCW.com yet? If not, sign on to the Internet and listen without further delay. Hosted nightly by Bob Ryder and Jeremy Borash with news updates by Dave Scherer, and special appearances by Chad Damiani and the incomparable Mark Madden, this is the finest wrestling radio show anywhere. Showtimes are one hour prior to and one hour following Nitro and Thunder, and from 8pm - 10pm EST every other weeknight. During the first month, the guest list included Hollywood Hogan, Ric Flair, Bret Hart, Kevin Nash, Buff Bagwell, Disco Inferno, Raven, and even me. And you won t believe what they talked about. It s a no-holds-barred environment, where no subject is too hot to handle. Best of all, you can join in the fun by calling in with your questions and comments to 1-877-WCW-LIVE.

Apologies to Lisa Sturgis, how remiss of me to forget to credit your contribution to last month s cover. I accept my slapped wrist graciously.

Finally, I want to address a couple of my favorite wrestlers, Disco Inferno and Chris Jericho. Chris, there is no CONSPIRACY at WCW Magazine against you, except for the fact that Disco Inferno is lobbying hard and kissing mucho @$$ in his attempts to replace you as a columnist. I m sure you big boys can work it out between yourselves.

Regards,

Colin Bowman

WCW event news WCW event news

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR TO FIND OUT WHEN WCW WILL BE COMING TO YOUR AREA. CITIES, ARENAS, AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR PLANS.

JUNE

Friday, 6/4
Cincinnati, OH
Firstar Center
7:30 PM

Saturday, 6/5
Columbus, OH
Convention Center
7:30 PM

Sunday, 6/6
Athens, OH
Ohio University
The Convo
7:30 PM

Monday, 6/7
Cleveland, OH
CSU Convocation Center
7:30 PM
NITRO TNT

Tuesday, 6/8
Johnstown, PA
Civic Center
7:00 PM
TV Taping

Wednesday, 6/9
Rochester, NY
Blue Cross Arena
7:30 PM

Thursday, 6/10
Syracuse, NY
Oncenter
6:30 PM
THUNDER TBS

Friday, 6/11
Buffalo, NY
Marine Midland Arena
7:30 PM

Sunday, 6/13
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Arena
7:30 PM
GREAT AMERICAN BASH

Monday, 6/14
Washington, D.C.
MCI Center
7:30 PM
NITRO TNT

Monday, 6/21
New Orleans, LA
Superdome
6:30 PM
NITRO TNT

Tuesday, 6/22
Alexandria, LA
Rapides Coliseum
7:00 PM
TV Taping

Wednesday, 6/23
Lake Charles, LA
Civic Center
7:30 PM

Thursday, 6/24
Lafayette, LA
Cajundome
6:30 PM
THUNDER TBS

Friday, 6/25
Auburn Hills, MI
The Palace
7:30 PM

Saturday, 6/26
Ft. Wayne, IN
Allen County War Memorial
7:30 PM

Sunday, 6/27
Milwaukee, WI
The Arena
7:30 PM

Monday, 6/28
Chicago, IL
United Center
6:30 PM
NITRO TNT

Ring Rap

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GOLDBERG RULES THE (ANIMAL) KINGDOM

No one was more pleased than I to read an article on Bill Goldberg in *USA Today*. Not due to his sheer magnitude in stature alone, but for the fact that he opposes animal fights. As President of our recently devised club, People Against Animal Cruelty, and on behalf of all PAAC s members, I strongly commend Goldberg s honesty and respect for animals. As a lifelong wrestling fan, I can continue to praise and enjoy the kind of entertainment only WCW can offer.

Tamara Henson
Barbourville, KY

PREZ FLAIR: NEW CHAMP!

All hail the new World Heavyweight Champion and WCW President 4-Life, Ric Flair! No one can wrestle, talk, or run WCW better than the man himself, Ric Flair. Bad guy or good guy, Flair will always be THE MAN!

Ron Hollifast
Lafayette, NY

THE MYSTERIOUS MASK

We are writing to express our disappointment on the loss of The Mask. Recently, many wrestlers have left their masks behind to go on to great successes. We feel the mask is more than just another accessory. The mask adds mystery, excitement, and nostalgia to this legendary sport. We were sad to see Rey s beautiful masks go, but it s nothing compared to what was revealed. Good luck, Rey. Mask or no mask, you re always our champ.

Jamie and Crystal
Ada, OK
via e-mail

NITRO GIRLS: A MONDAY MAINSTAY

I have to say that the Nitro Girls have really blossomed and have become such an important part of Nitro that I cannot imagine Monday nights without them. A.C. Jazz, my personal favorite, touched my heart with her sincere interview on a recent Nitro. Please write more about these wonderful women in wrestling and any and all photos and posters will be greatly appreciated!

Maynard Flinz
Duluth, MN

RAVENSPEAK: DON'T TRY IT AT HOME

First of all, I just want to say I am a huge Raven fan, but in Tag Talk, issue 48, I saw something so funny that I had to respond. I am referring to the blitherings of Angela Bikto from Ottawa, Canada. Come off it, lady! We re all sure that Webster s was cheering you on. I don t know if I m the only one who noticed, but all the words that this so-called Raven being used were from past articles about Raven. I m happy you re trying to widen your vocabulary, but next time, do me a favor and don t be so obvious.

Amy Wilson
Laurel Hill, NC

JERICHOHOLIC 4-LIFE!

I m writing to tell you how disappointed I am in how people are treating Chris Jericho. He is one of the most talented wrestlers in WCW and he still doesn t get any respect. He is the greatest Cruiserweight Champion of all time and one of the greatest Television Champions of all time and I think he deserves a United States, or even a World title shot soon. Tony Schiavone always points out how great a wrestler Jericho is, but notes that he has an attitude. Doesn t every wrestler have an attitude? I think Chris Jericho is fine the way he is and deserves respect from the fans and the other wrestlers!

Matt Bree
New London, NY

STEINER'S IN FOR A BEATING!

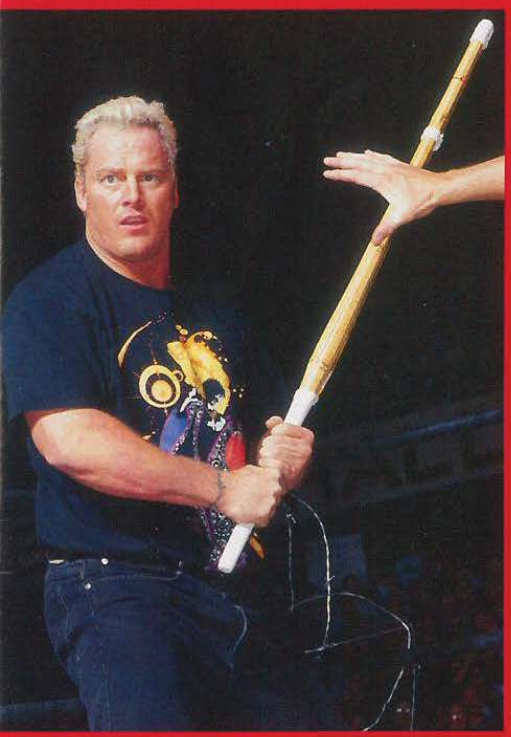
I am DISGUSTED with the actions of Scott Steiner! He has no right to even touch Kimberly. I can t believe he was stupid enough to throw her from a car! I thought it was bad enough when he followed her around the locker room. I never thought that anyone would stoop that low in wrestling. I tune in every week to see wrestling, not Scott Steiner beating up the WCW mascot or him stalking Kimberly. He pretends to be all cool and hot, but he really is just another big-mouthed egomaniac. The only thing bigger than his muscles is his ego. I think serious action needs to be taken with him. DDP will have his revenge. After what he has done to Kimberly, he ll be lucky if he can walk when DDP is through with him. DDP, send Steiner to the hospital, just like he did to Kimberly!

Melissa Ferrigno
via e-mail

STAY AWAY, HEENAN!

I am writing in response to Bobby Heenan s article in Brain Reaction, issue 47. Mr. Heenan referred to Knoxville as the armpit of America. I was born and raised in Knoxville and I happen to like my hometown. We have some of the best scenery in the region and also some of the best performers and entertainers are here. I don t mean to sound rude, but how would Heenan like it if I made fun of his hometown? If he doesn t like Knoxville, he can stay away! After all, there are a lot of wrestling fans here, but no one invited Heenan.

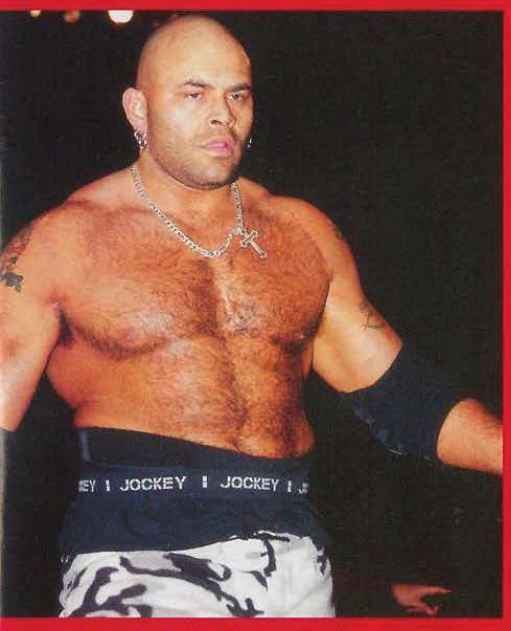
Eric Smith
Knoxville, TN



ARDCORE HAK

I think Hak is the best new addition to WCW in a very long e! He really is hardcore and he will show those other guys at brawling is all about! I look forward to seeing more of k in the ring. I see gold in his immediate future.

Dana Lietgeib
Philadelphia, PA



K-DOGG'S A MUTT!

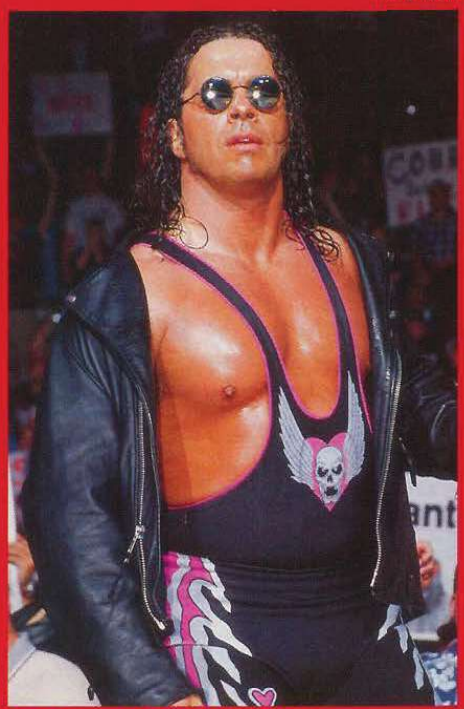
We have one comment about K-Dogg s article about the 200+ club. For one thing, he has no idea what he is talking about! Look at his blubber! He has no room to talk about 200+ people because he s probably 300+. If you compare K-Dogg to Goldberg or Lex Luger, he s definitely not the kind of man that any woman would like to knock boots with!

Rachel and Michelle
York, PA

THANKS, GOLDBERG!

I went to a Monday Nitro in Dallas, at the Reunion Arena on January 25th. I am in a wheelchair and my nephew and I had 2nd row seats. That was the best night of my life besides my high school graduation. When the event was over, we had to be detoured to find an elevator that worked because the one that we got on earlier somehow broke. On our way to find the elevator, we went back where all the wrestlers were. We saw Lex Luger, Kevin Nash, and Ric Flair, but the one that stood out the most was GOLDBERG. He was the nicest wrestler! He stopped and talked to me, shook my hand and told me to take care. The reason why I am writing you this is I was hoping that you would put it in the magazine so that Goldberg could see it, and I want him to know that I thank him for being such a nice guy. THANK YOU GOLDBERG.

Jeff Sperier
Dallas, TX
via e-mail



BRET, WE STAND BY YOU!

Will everyone please stop trashing Bret Hart?! Anyone who has followed his career knows that Bret is a man of integrity and is completely dedicated to this great sport. He is unmatched in technical wrestling ability. Sure, lately his victories have been due to illegal tactics, but which wrestlers out there have always wrestled by the book? It takes strength, endurance, a vast knowledge of holds, and cleverness to be the best there is, was, and ever will be. We all know he has definitely earned that title. Bret, do whatever you have to do to win, in the meantime, we (your fans) will keep the faith. You re an icon in your own right as well as the hottest man in professional wrestling! We love you and are behind you no matter what!

Effie
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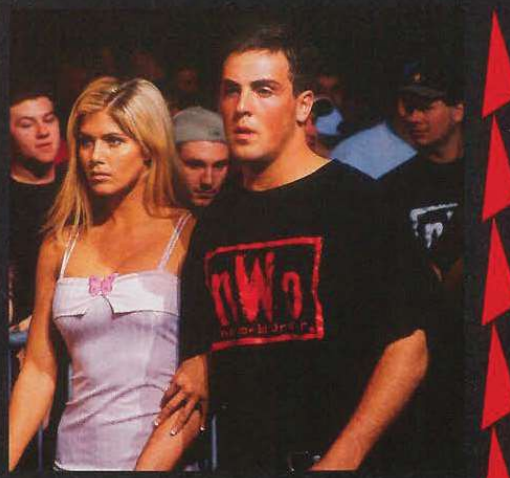


FLAIR vs. FLAIR: NO SURPRISE

I don t see what all the fuss is about David stabbing his father in the back. If Ric has any emotion about it should be pride. Think about it. Ric is known as the dirtiest player in the game and his son just followed in his footsteps.

Amy Beth Syder
via e-mail

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

There used to be U.S. Tag Team belts in WCW. Can you give the names of the title holders of those belts?

We sure can! From the top:

Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev 9/28/86 Atlanta, GA defeated Dutch Mantel & Bobby Jaggers in tournament final.

Ron Garvin & Barry Windham 12/9/86 Spartanburg, SC

Ivan Koloff & Dick Murdoch 3/14/87 Atlanta, GA

TITLE VACANT

Midnight Express: Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane 5/16/87 Atlanta, GA defeated Ron Garvin & Barry Windham in tournament final.

Fantastics: Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton 4/26/88 Chattanooga, TN

Midnight Express (2) 7/10/88 Baltimore, MD

TITLE VACANT

Fantastics (2) 12/7/88 Chattanooga, TN defeated Eddie Gilbert & Ron Simmons in tournament final

Kevin Sullivan & Steve Williams 12/26/88 Norfolk, VA

Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner 2/28/89 Columbia, SC

TITLE VACANT

Z-Man & Brian Pillman 2/12/90 Gainesville, GA defeated Fabulous Freebirds: Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin in tournament final.

Midnight Express (3) 5/19/90 Washington, DC

Rick Steiner & Scott Steiner 8/24/90 East Rutherford, NJ

TITLE VACANT

Fabulous Freebirds 5/19/91 St. Petersburg, FL defeated Young Pistols: Tracy Smothers & Steve Armstrong

Patriots: Todd Champion & Firebreaker Chip 8/12/91 Gainesville, GA

Young Pistols 11/5/91 Gainesville, GA

Ron Simmons & Big Josh 1/14/92 Columbus, GA

Greg Valentine & Terry Taylor 2/17/92 Rock Hill, SC

Fabulous Freebirds (2) 5/17/92 Jacksonville, FL

Dick Slater & Barbarian 6/25/92 Kansas City, MO

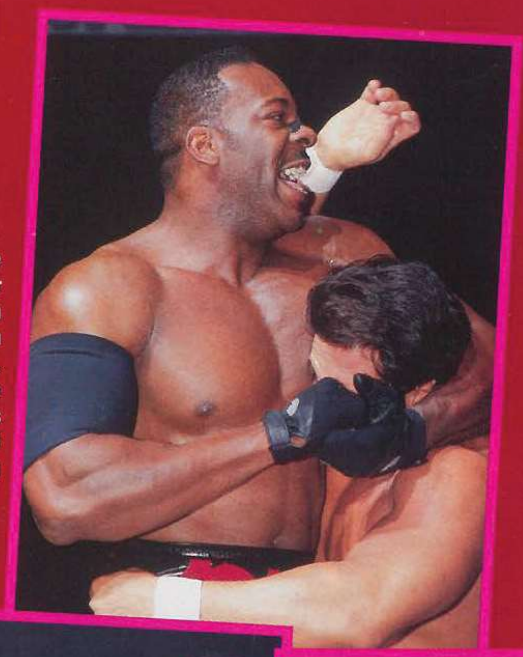
ABANDONED on 7/31/92

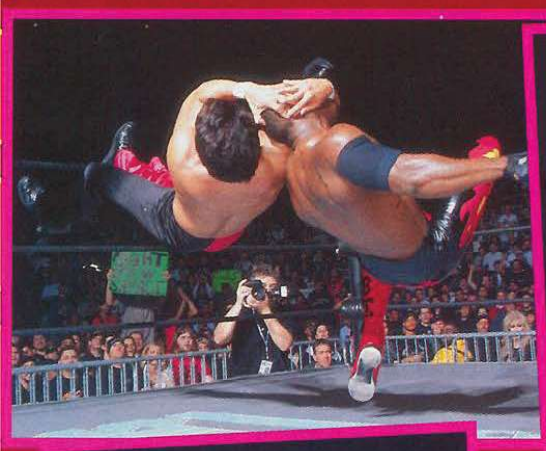
SUPERBRAWL IX

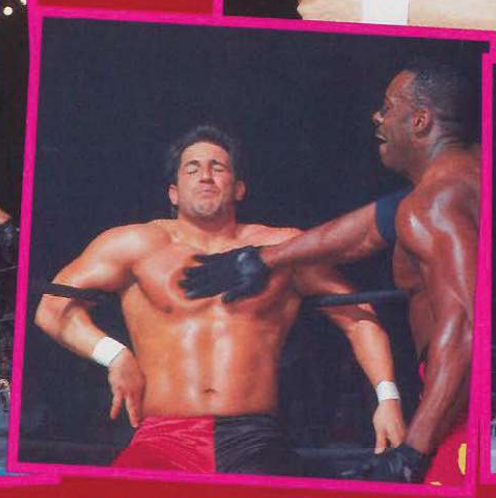
February 21, 1999 - Oakland, CA

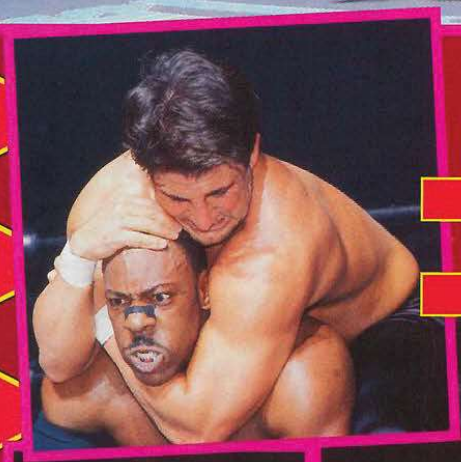
SuperBrawl is always one of the highlights of the wrestling year, and after the unbelievable happenings at this year s event, it was clear that the nWo s strength in numbers policy was still the most disruptive and dangerous factor in WCW. Ric Flair thought he knew who every nWo member was ... but he miscounted by one, and that new recruit turned out to be the most shocking in New World Order history!

Before the first match, a video was shown of the mysterious gorgeous blonde who had been seen for weeks on WCW telecasts. She obviously had an unseen paramour, but just as important, she was the person Scott Hall had handed his taser stun gun to! Obviously, fans liked what they saw whenever this beautiful vixen appeared on screen, but they had no idea who she was or why she was in WCW, but that would be revealed much later during SuperBrawl s main event pitting World Champion Hollywood Hogan against Ric Flair.





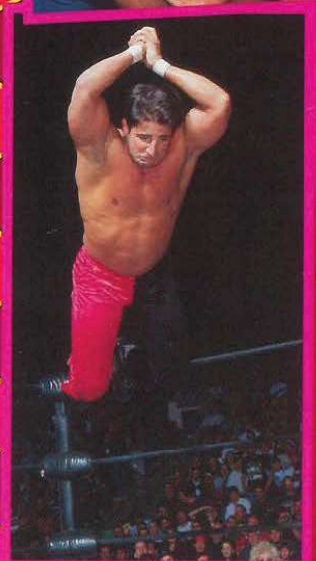


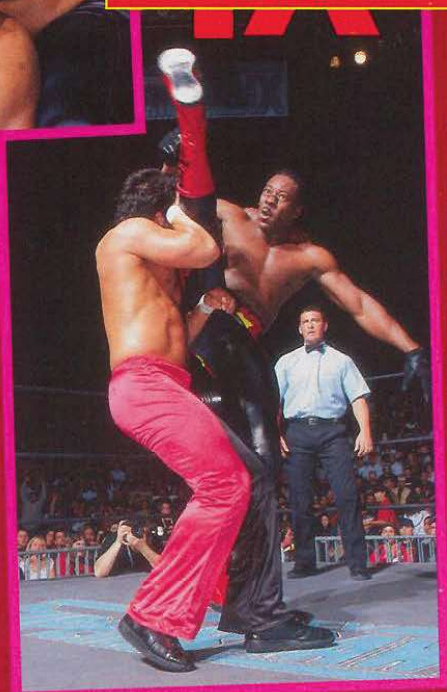


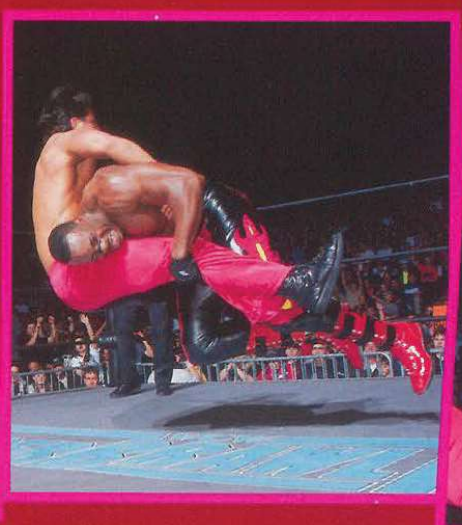
BOOKER T vs. DISCO INFERNO

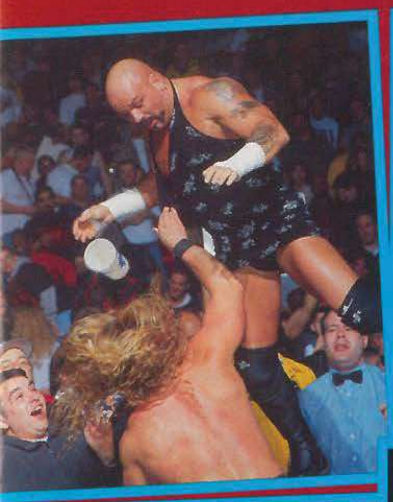
Disco Inferno has apparently achieved his dream: He s now the nWo s main gofer and flunky! When Disco interrupted an important conversation earlier in the week between Booker T and his brother, Stevie Ray, the Inferno sent Booker T into a rage. Disco continued to show rapid improvement during this bout, and his offensive maneuvers had Booker T frequently on the mat. Disco even managed to get up following a Harlem sidekick. Disco climbed to the top turnbuckle to capitalize, but Booker T punched him to the canvas, then followed up with a magnificent Harlem Hangover flying corkscrew elbow smash to score a rocking victory over the supposed hitmaker! (9:20)

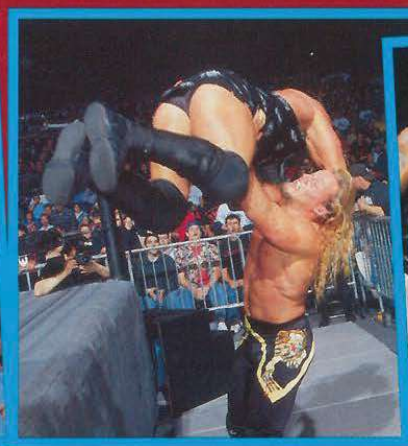
WINNER: BOOKER T BY PINFALL

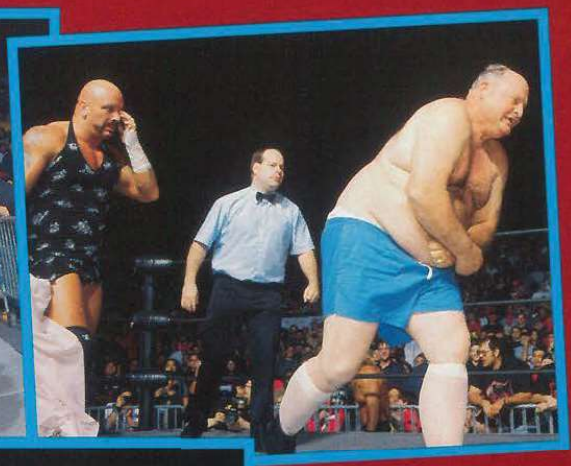










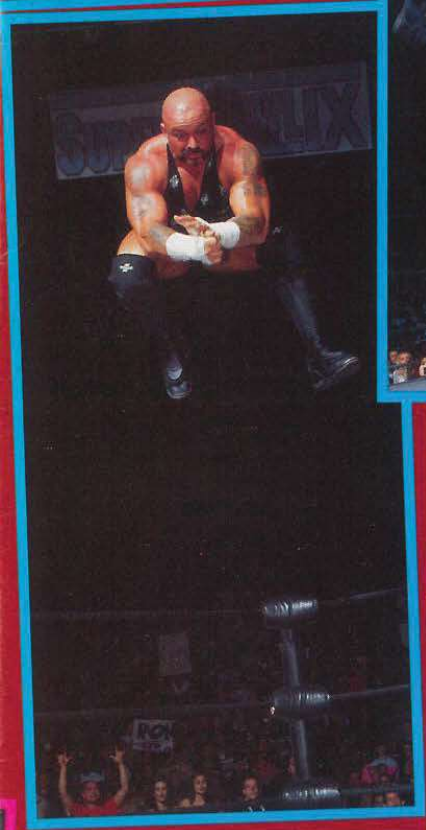


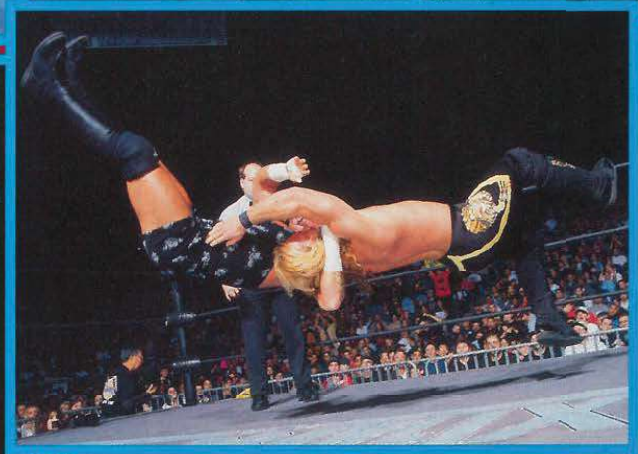
The stipulation for this bout would allow Saturn to remove the dress he had been forced to wear if he won. However, it seemed the odds were stacked against him when newly reinstated referee Scott Dickenson accompanied Jericho and his security adviser, Ralphus, to the ring and for

PERRY SATURN

VS.

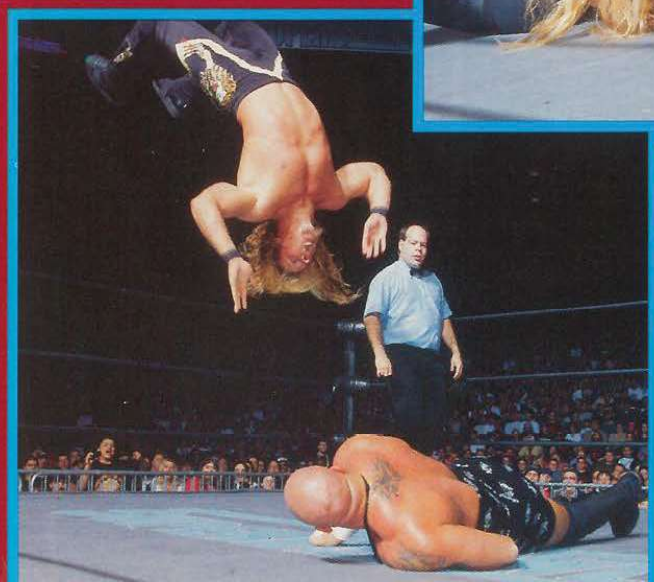
CHRIS JERICHO w/ Ralphus

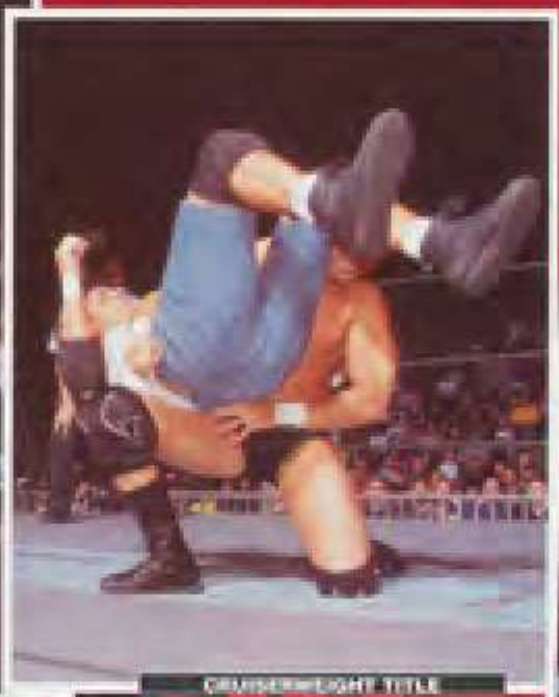




some reason, Ralphus was sporting an evening gown complete with earrings and makeup! When the dressed Saturn entered the ring, LionHeart grabbed the ring mic and exclaimed that Saturn looked ridiculous. Saturn surely didn t wrestle that way! Soon, the brawl was in the stands, with Saturn fully in control as he bashed Jericho. Saturn thrilled the fans with a perfect T-bone suplex, and later pulled Ralphus into the ring and ripped his dress off, leaving him in his underwear. Not a pretty sight. Jericho battled back strong, even scoring with a missile dropkick while Saturn was on the outside. Perry caught Jericho with his Rings of Saturn submission hold, but Jericho managed to reach the ropes to break the hold. Jericho rocked Perry with his Lionsault, but Saturn kicked out at two. Finally, Saturn blasted Jericho with the Death Valley Driver, and it looked like certain victory. When Dickenson (who, to his credit, called the match down the middle) told Saturn to pin Jericho, an enraged Saturn DVD d Dickenson as well, then stormed from the ring! Of course, this meant a countout victory for Jericho ... as well as some mighty confused fans! (11:21)

WINNER: JERICHO BY COUNTOUT



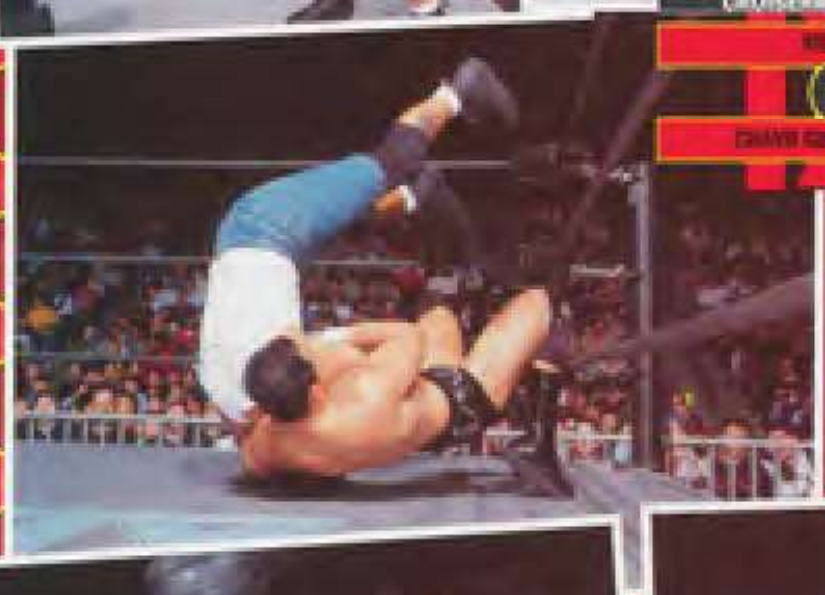


CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE

KIDMAN

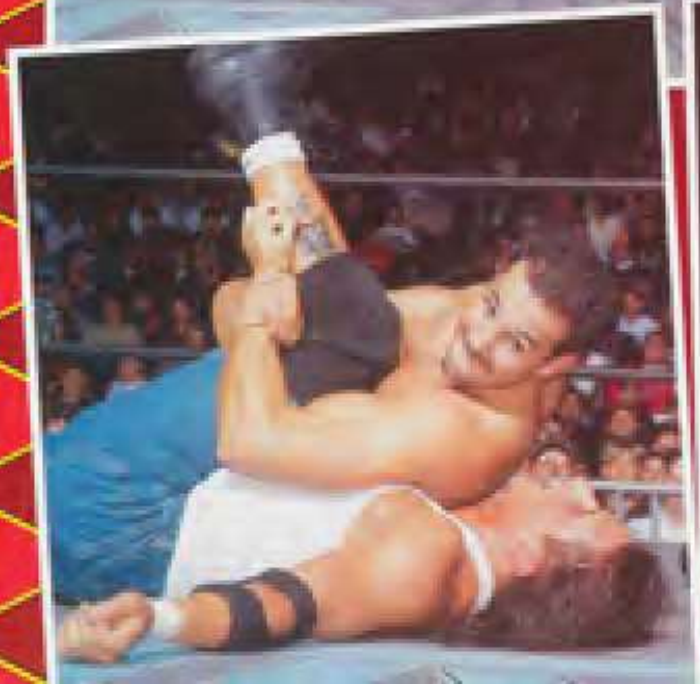
VS.

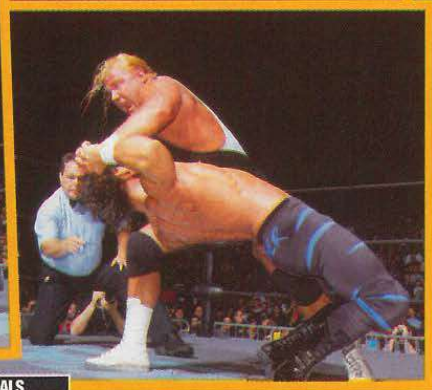
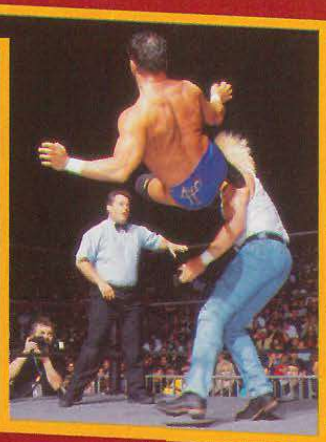
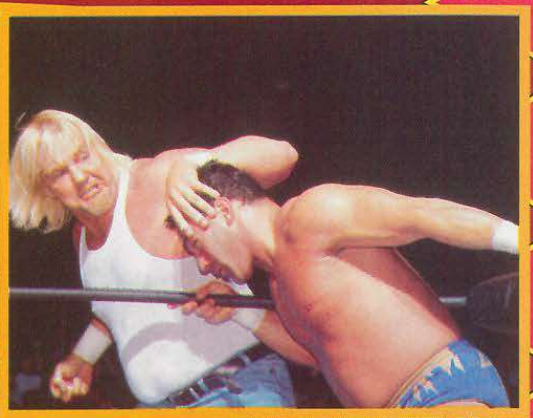
CHAVO GUERRERO, JR.



There is nothing wacky about Chavo Guerrero, Jr. anymore! In fact, Chavo's new, more aggressive style nearly won him the Cruiserweight title in this evenly contested bout. Of course, Kidman, the champ, was angry about why this match was booked in the first place. Chavo and Kidman were partners during the World Tag Team title tournament, but Chavo changed/shifted him backstage to begin a new feud. After withstanding a startling offense from the talented Guerrero, Kidman rebounded with a Shooting Star Press for the pin. However, new questions still lingers: Is Chavo turning into a clone of his Uncle Eddy? That could be bad news for all of WCW! (8/22)

WINNER: KIDMAN BY PINFALL



WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

BARRY WINDHAM & CURT HENNIG

VS.

CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO

MATCH 1

Two sensational current Horsemen versus two disgruntled former Horsemen! What better way to settle the WCW World Tag Team title tournament? The pre-match tournament bracket showed that in order to win the title, Malenko & Benoit would have to win two successive bouts against Windham & Hennig. Earlier in the double-elimination tournament, the Horsemen suffered their only loss against Windham & Hennig, both second-generation superstars who were eager to re-establish their reputations.

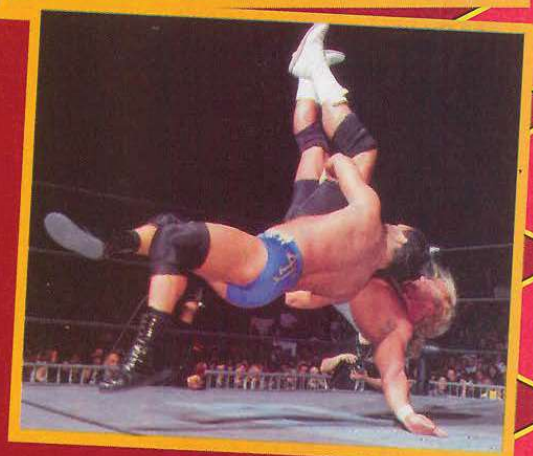
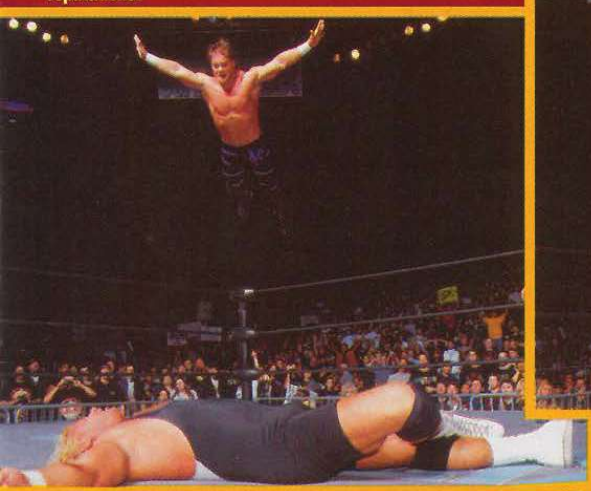
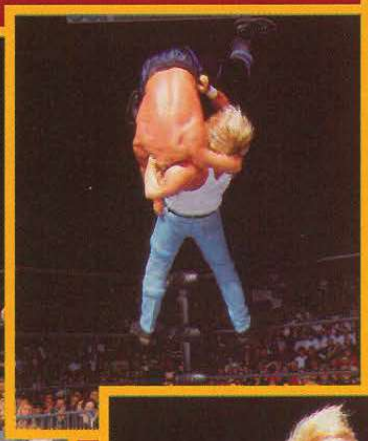
From the onset, Malenko & Benoit were eager to capture the gold for the Horsemen. The first match was the longest of the night as the Horsemen battled like champions, and Malenko s second attempt at a Texas Cloverleaf on Windham scored victory for their supremely talented team! (19:32)

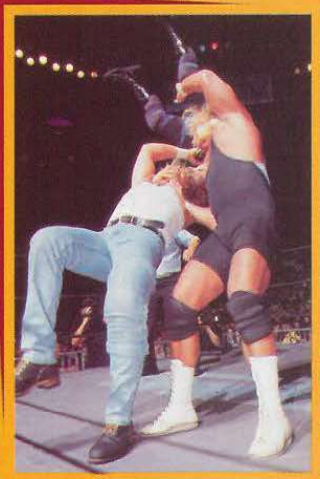
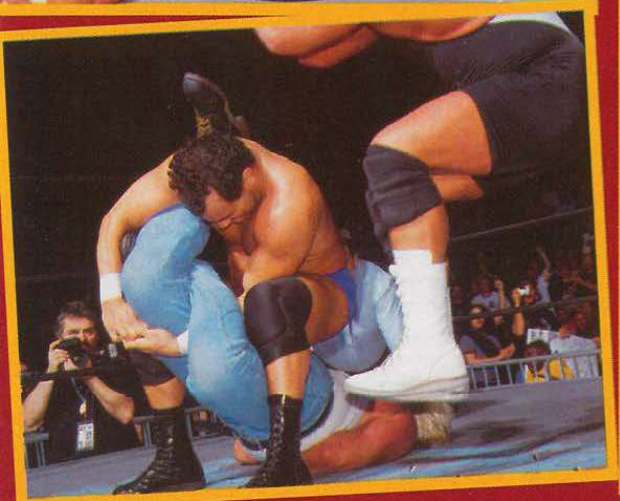
WINNERS: MALENKO & BENOIT BY PINFALL

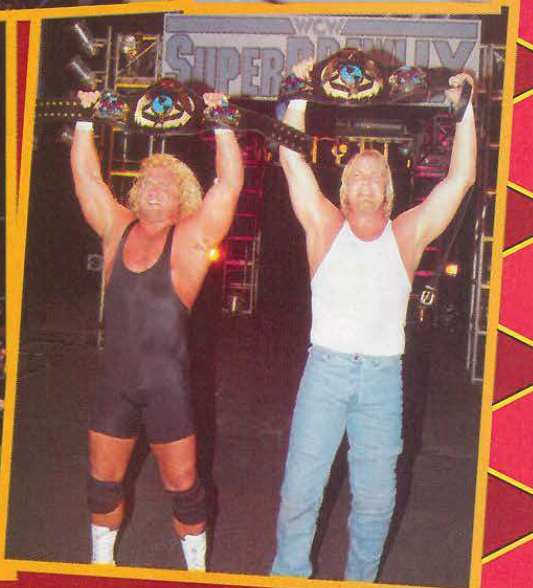
MATCH 2

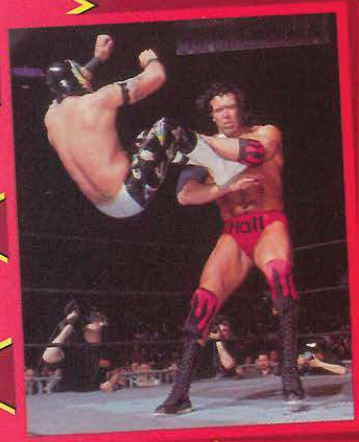
A tactical error by Benoit & Malenko spelled their doom in this tournament. After the bell, Benoit & Malenko used the 30-second rest period between the bouts to continue hammering Hennig. While referee Mickey Jay was busy trying to break up a Benoit-Hennig scuffle, Windham, still on his back on the canvas, removed the leather belt from his jeans. He wrapped the belt around Malenko s neck and choked him down, dragging the Iceman to the canvas. Windham s pinning position hid the belt from Jay s sight completely, and the arbiter had no choice but to turn around and count the pinfall. Ladies and gentlemen, your new World Tag Team Champions: Barry Windham & Curt Hennig both making the biggest WCW comebacks of 1999! (34 seconds)

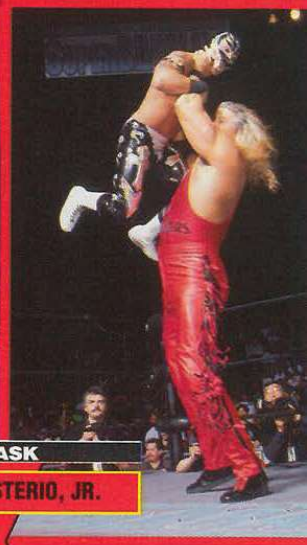
WINNERS OF THE TOURNAMENT FOR THE WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE: BARRY WINDHAM & CURT HENNIG





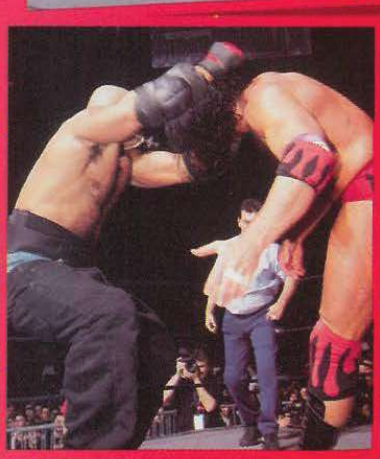
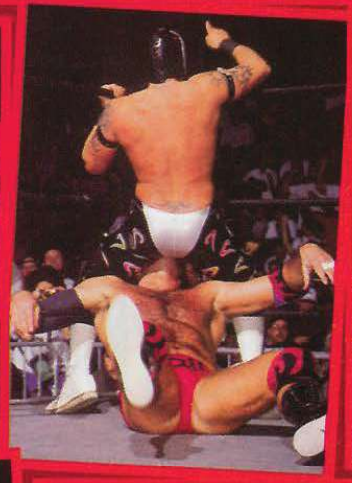
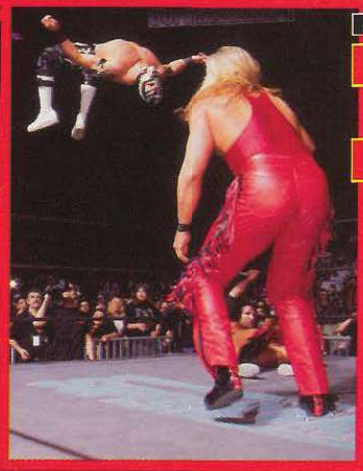


HAIR VS. MASK

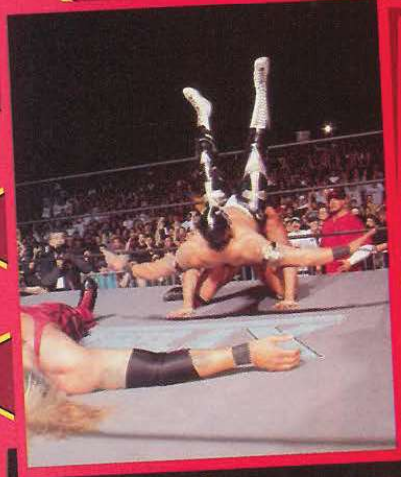
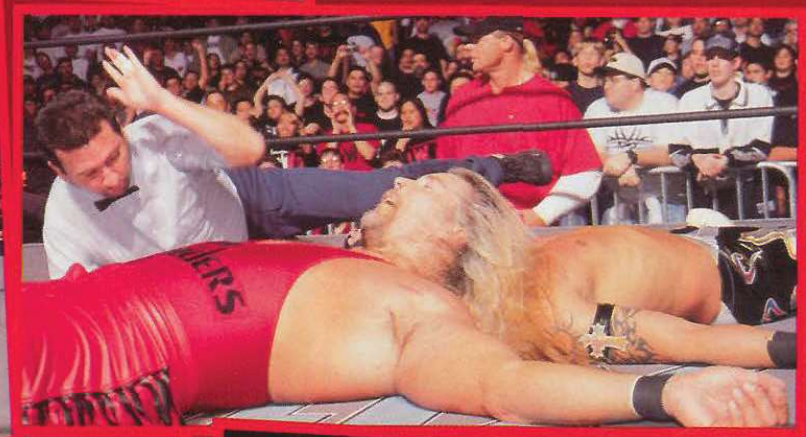
KONNAN & REY MYSTERIO, JR.

VS.

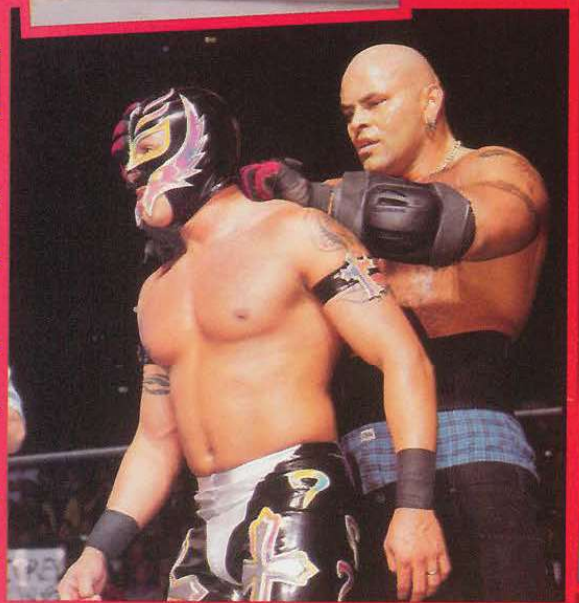
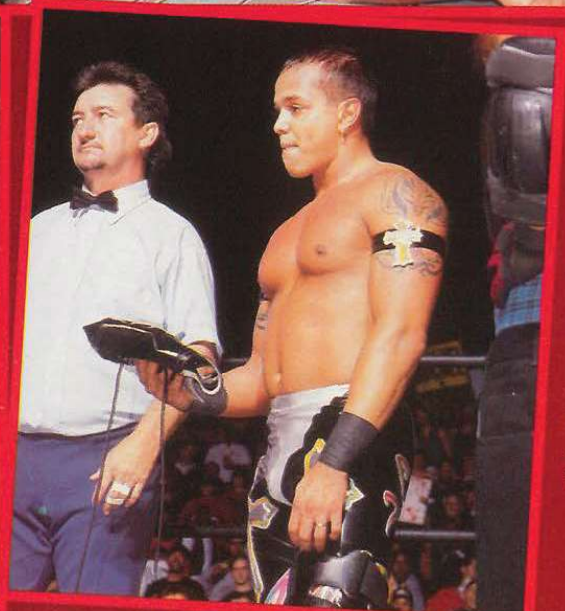
KEVIN NASH & SCOTT HALL

Before the bout, it was revealed that Mysterio had seriously injured Lex Luger s bicep by slamming it in a limousine door during the previous edition of Thunder. Therefore, Scott Hall took Luger s place for this bout, and the stipulations were simple: If Nash & Hall lost, Miss Elizabeth had to shave her head. If Mysterio & Konnan lost, Mysterio had to remove his mask, which to Mysterio would be the ultimate in shame and humiliation.

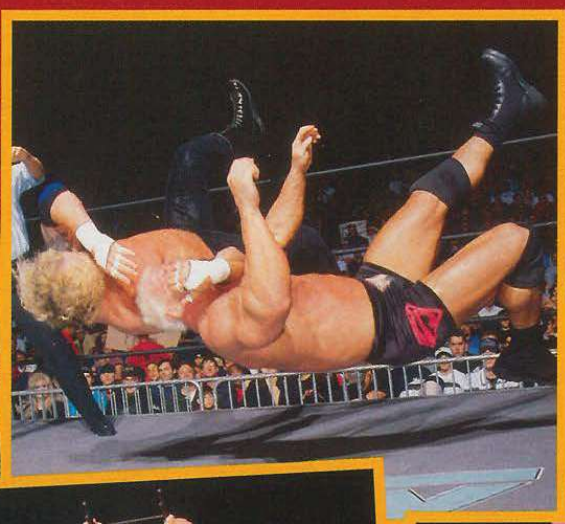



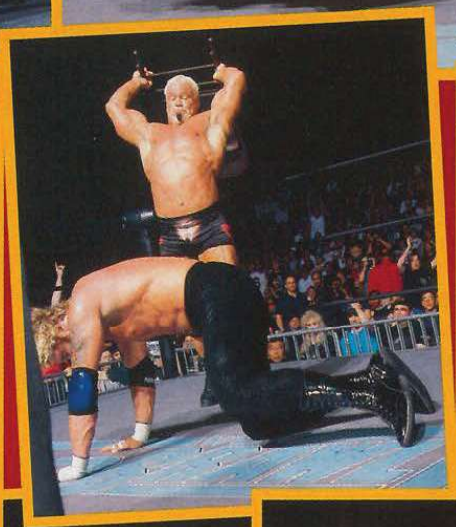
Despite the size difference, Mysterio & Konnan battled the Outsiders like champions, thwarting the scurrilous duo s offense with high-flying maneuvers. In fact, all four men were in the ring battling as Mysterio blasted Hall with the bucking bronco in the far corner! However, Luger, who was stationed at ringside with Liz, pulled Konnan from the ring and smashed him into the steel ring steps, virtually knocking him out. Meanwhile, Mysterio decked Nash with a moonsault and covered him, but Liz ran up to the ring apron and distracted referee Randy Anderson. With the ref s back turned, Hall ran into the ring and used the Outsiders Edge to power bomb Rey, then pulled the still-KO d Nash atop Mysterio. Shrewdly, Liz jumped from the apron in time for Anderson to spin around and count the pin on Mysterio.

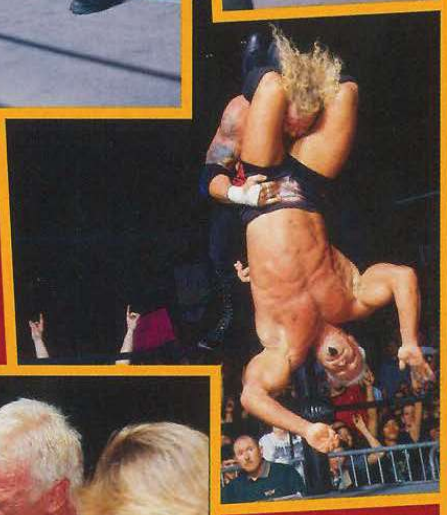



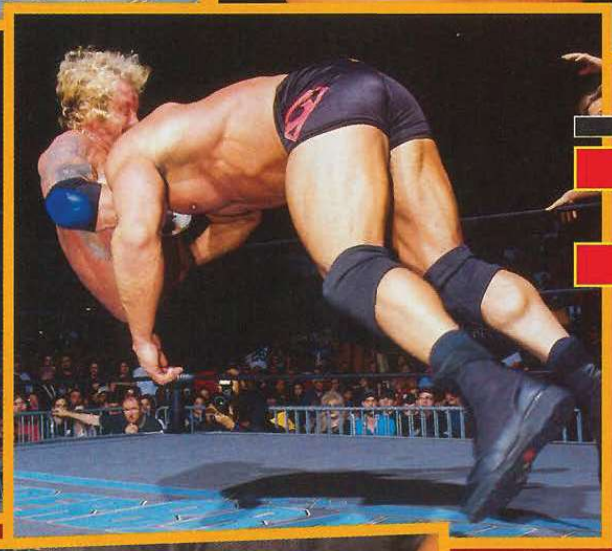
Being a man of his word, Rey unmasked, standing stoically as Konnan loosened the mask straps. The unveiling revealed a handsome young man, yet one severely troubled by the shame of being a luchador whose face was now shown to the world. Disgusted, Rey threw the mask into the ring as he and Konnan walked out. In typical Wolfpac fashion, Nash put the mask on his own head, showing no respect for Mysterio. However, the next night on Nitro, Mysterio would score the upset of the century with a clean pinfall win over the seven-foot-tall Nash! (11:02)

WINNERS: HALL & NASH BY PINFALL









For weeks, Big Poppa Pump engaged in some of the vilest tactics in mat history in his pursuit of Kimberly. We won t recant his heinous actions here, but it was clear that DDP was in a foul mood when he hit the ring. Steiner ran, but Dallas caught up with him and blasted Scott with fists and slams. Steiner was in a fight not only for the TV belt, but for his career as well!

Page remained in control, but soon, Steiner s partner in crime, Buff Bagwell, came to the ring and hurled a chair inside. But Dallas was able to catch up with Bagwell and beat him every bit as severely as Steiner. Later, Bagwell used a pair of bolt cutters to remove the padding from the top and middle turnbuckles in one corner. To his credit, referee Charles Robinson saw the infraction

WORLD TV TITLE

SCOTT STEINER

vs.

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

and ordered Buff away from ringside and back to the locker room!

However, it was Bagwell s evil deed that would later spell the difference in this bout. Dallas tired, but continued to show the fighting spirit and grit in his soul by kicking out of every pin attempt, even one that came after a Frankensteiner from the top turnbuckle. Enraged, Steiner picked up Page and rammed his back and kidney area into the exposed bolts in the corner, not once, but three times! He then locked a virtually unconscious Page in his Steiner Recliner reverse chinlock, and referee Robinson called for the bell after Page did not quit, but Dallas could not respond after Robinson had lifted his arm for the third time. Fans were horrified as Page was removed from the ring by stretcher and then hauled to the nearest hospital for treatment. Steiner s reaction? He kicked over the stretcher when paramedics arrived. The big question: How much lower could Scott Steiner and Buff Bagwell go? (15:33)

WINNER: STEINER BY SUBMISSION

U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

SCOTT HALL

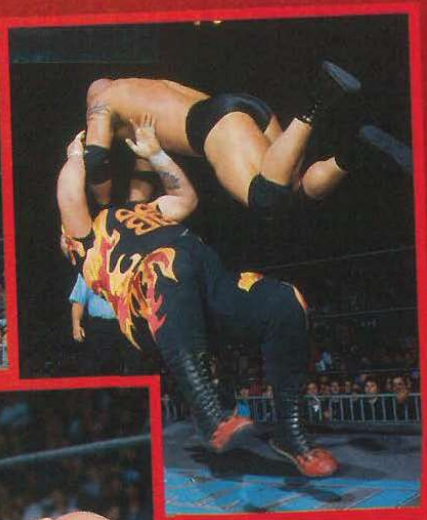
VS.

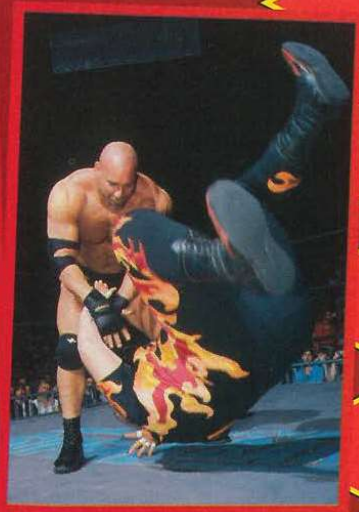
ROWDY PIPER

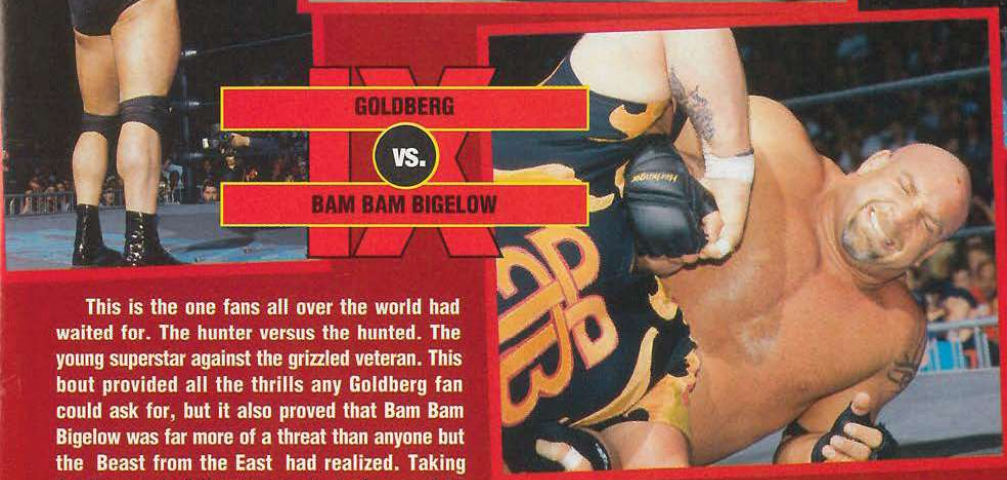
Piper had scored an unexpected upset by beating Bret Hart for the U.S. title at Nitro, and his first defense came against Hall, a man who usually doesn't fight alone and this bout was no exception. Hall was accompanied to the ring by Disco Inferno, whose presence would prove, for once, to be very important.

The Rowdy Scot started out strong by wrapping his kilt around Hall's head and beating him, then pulling it down around Hall's throat and choking him. Previously, Hall had insulted Piper for being past his prime, but Roddy wrestled like a young stud in this bout, keeping Hall at bay with some old-fashioned footstuffs and suplexes. Piper had Hall locked in a sleeperhold when Disco climbed through the ropes, but Piper released the hold and rocked the heliuva with punches. Kevin Nash appeared and tried to climb into the ring, but Piper pounded him on the ring apron. As referee Billy Silverman was busy trying to usher Disco out of the ring, he missed Hall hooking Piper on the back of the head. Hall rolled up Piper just as Disco left the ring, and Silverman counted Piper down for the pin — but missed the fact that Hall used his feet against the ring ropes for leverage! After the pin, Piper was shocked and couldn't believe he had been counted out. Piper grabbed the U.S. belt and dared Hall and Nash to come and get it. Finally, Piper threw the belt at Hall's feet and later was lucky to escape the ring with his limbs as Nash and Hall surrounded him. (8:22)

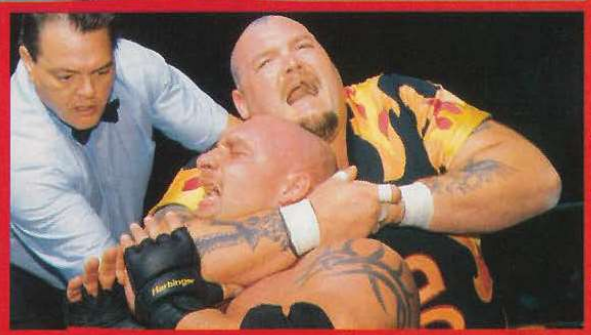
WINNER: HALL BY PINFALL





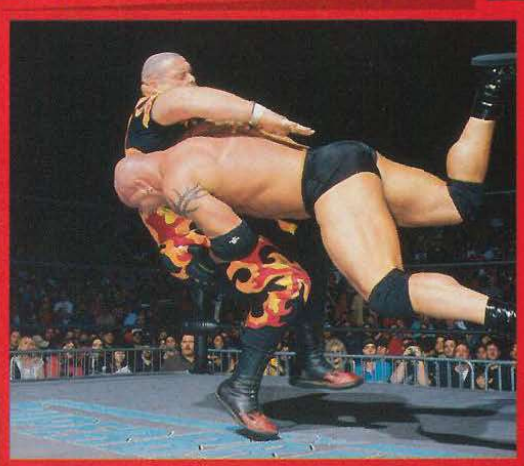


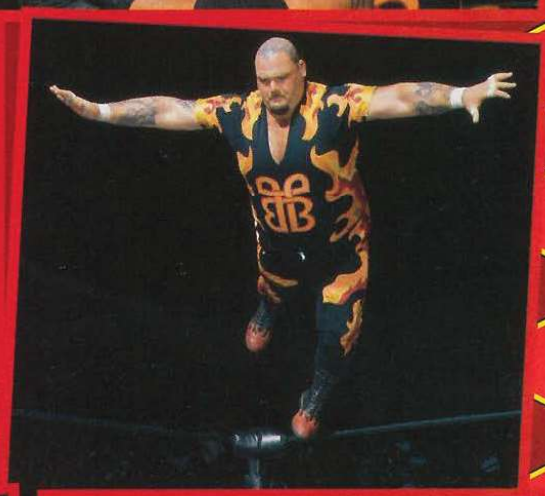
GOLDBERG vs. BAM BAM BIGELOW

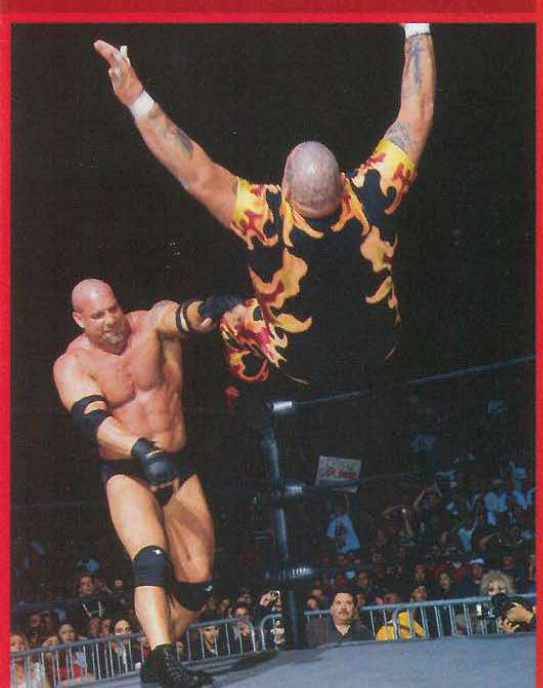


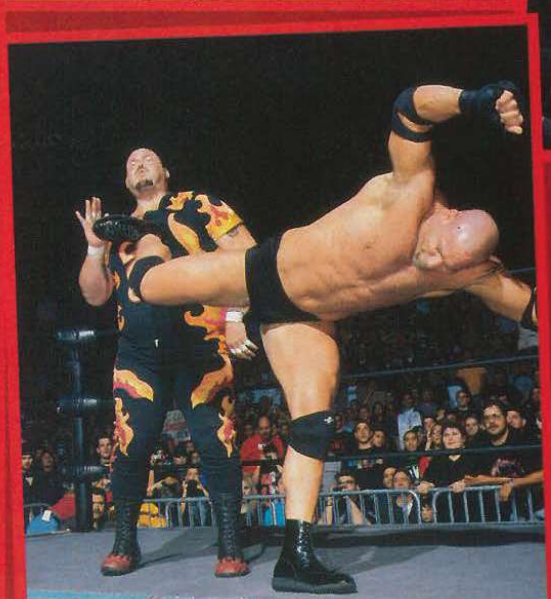
This is the one fans all over the world had waited for. The hunter versus the hunted. The young superstar against the grizzled veteran. This bout provided all the thrills any Goldberg fan could ask for, but it also proved that Bam Bam Bigelow was far more of a threat than anyone but the Beast from the East had realized. Taking Goldberg out of the ring (as he had warned he would do during his interview with WCW/nWo Magazine), Bam Bam worked on Goldberg s knees, forcing the former champ to lose his balance. Things looked very bleak when Bigelow stunned Goldberg with his incredible flying headbutt from the top turnbuckle, but when he climbed the ring ropes for a second attempt, Goldberg pulled him down. It took not one, but two Spears to knock the wind out of the burly Bigelow, and it took all of Goldberg s strength to lift the 390-pounder into a Jackhammer. The ring shook when Bigelow hit the mat, and the crowd erupted as Goldberg scored yet another astounding pinfall victory! (11:41)

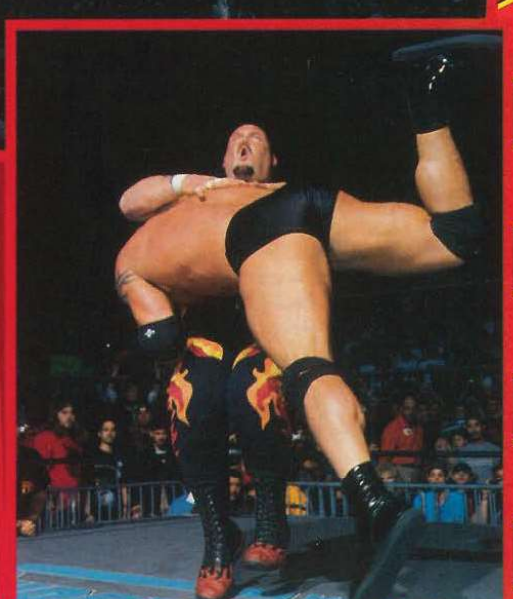
WINNER: GOLDBERG BY PINFALL











WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

VS.

RIC FLAIR

The previous Monday, Hogan and the nWo, led Flair into an empty field and beat him within an inch of his life. Now, six days later, the Nature Boy vied not only for his 14th World title, but dedicated this bout to his long-suffering family.

Flair controlled his obvious hatred for Hogan during the early moments of the contest, but he could not conceal the fact that he had been hurt badly during the field gang-up. Hogan started very strong, blasting Flair with bodyslams, clotheslines, and punches. Hogan chopped Flair in the ring corner, but Flair reversed the situation and scored with a few hard chops of his own, followed by a classic kneedrop to Hogan s face.

Shocked at how much fight was still in Flair, Hogan took the bout out of the ring. Hogan bashed Flair s head into the steel ring barricade and then with a chair, opening two huge cuts. Like a shark smelling blood, Hogan started biting Flair s forehead, opening the cuts even wider! Back in the ring, Hogan leapt upon Flair and started bashing him with right hands ... the same thing he had done in the field during the previous Nitro. Enraged, Flair leapt to his feet and challenged Hogan for more!

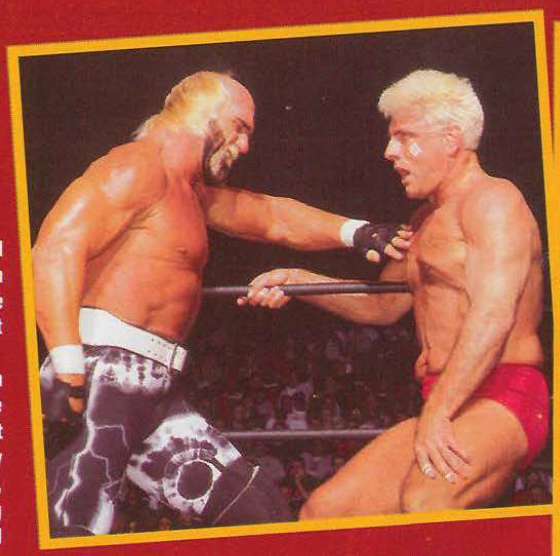
Sensing trouble, Hogan removed his weight belt and whipped Flair with it, but each slash angered Flair all the more. Ric rallied with a reverse kick that landed low on the Hulkster. Flair then took off Hogan s belt and whipped him, then opened up a cut on Hogan by wrapping the belt around his fist and hitting Hogan square between the eyes with the buckle.

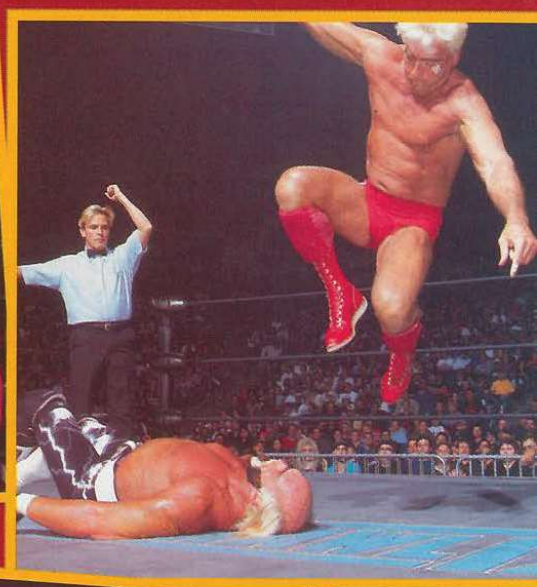
As Hogan begged for mercy in the ring, the mysterious, beautiful blonde, clad in a red dress, stormed down the ring ramp and climbed to the apron, slapping Flair twice in the face. The slaps had little effect on Flair as he kept battling Hogan, but when Flair tried to cover Hogan for a pin, Hogan threw Flair onto referee Robinson. Hogan then elbow dropped Robinson, this time deliberately knocking the official senseless.

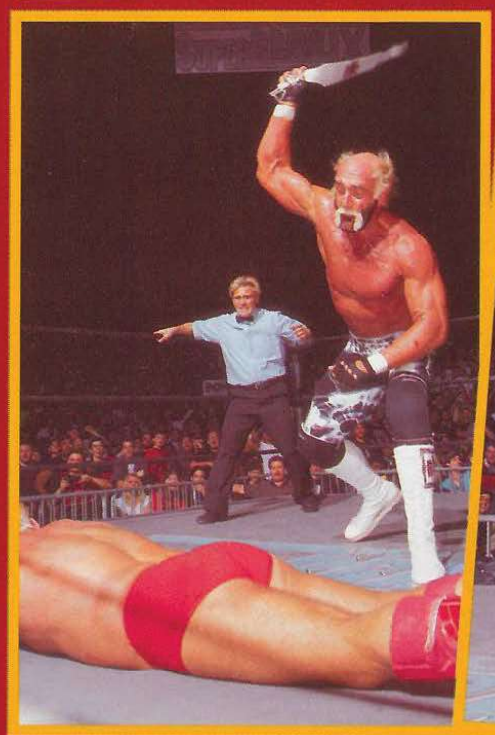
Hogan scored with a big boot to Flair s face followed by a slam, then went for his legdrop finisher, but Flair rolled out of the way. As Flair maneuvered Hogan into his figure-four, a masked figure, clad in a leather jacket and nWo T-shirt, came out of the dressing room. The masked thug raced into the ring and zapped Flair in the back with the stun gun, which obviously had been given to him by the beautiful blonde! Hogan rolled over on his incapacitated opponent and scored the pinfall victory. (12:00)

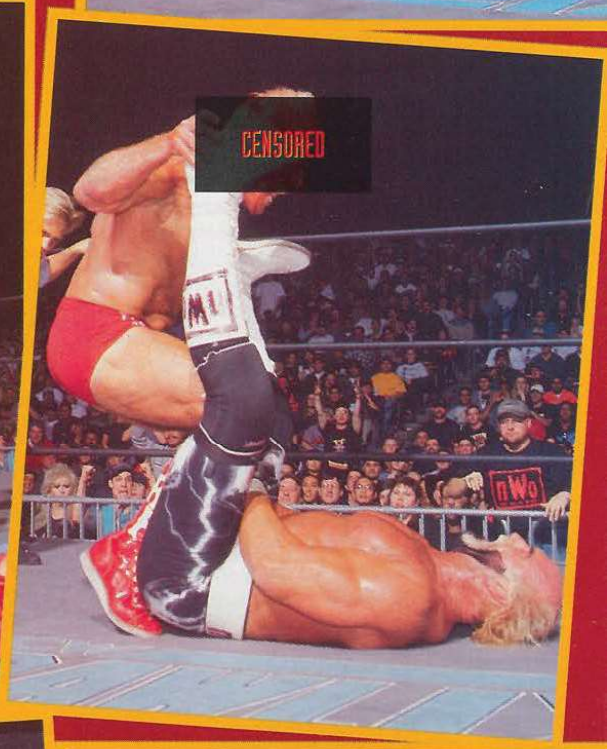
WINNER: HOLLYWOOD HOGAN BY PINFALL

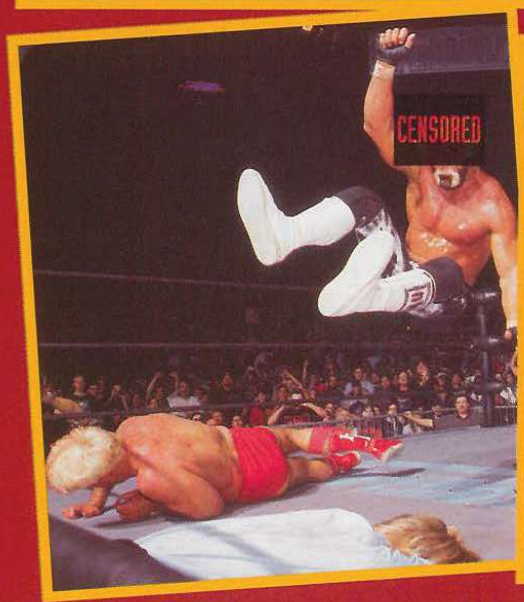
After the match, the masked man embraced the blonde, who pulled off the ski mask, revealing David Flair, Ric s son! David even zapped Ric a second time with the taser before he, the blonde babe, Nash, and Hogan celebrated in the ring. Never did Flair expect a member of his own family to betray him in such a callous fashion!

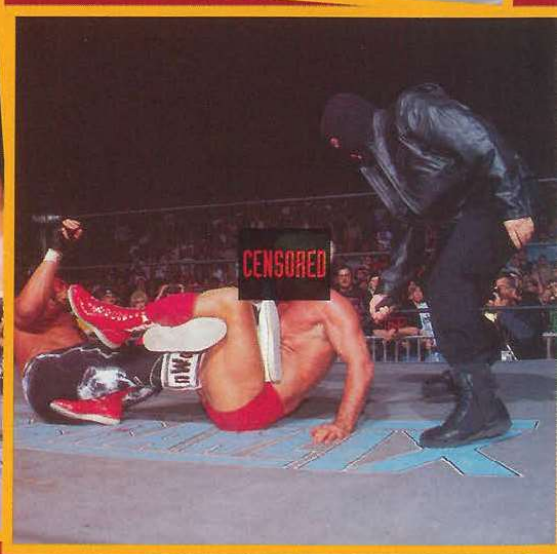


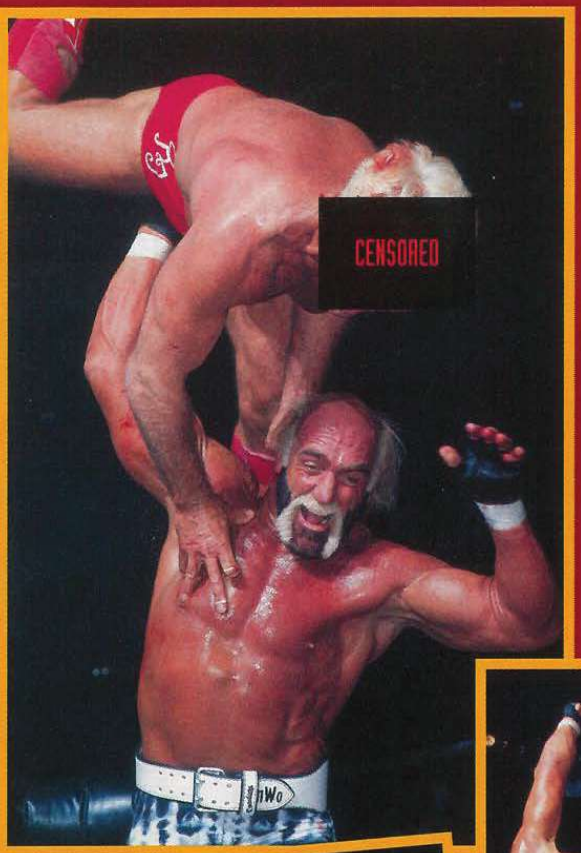








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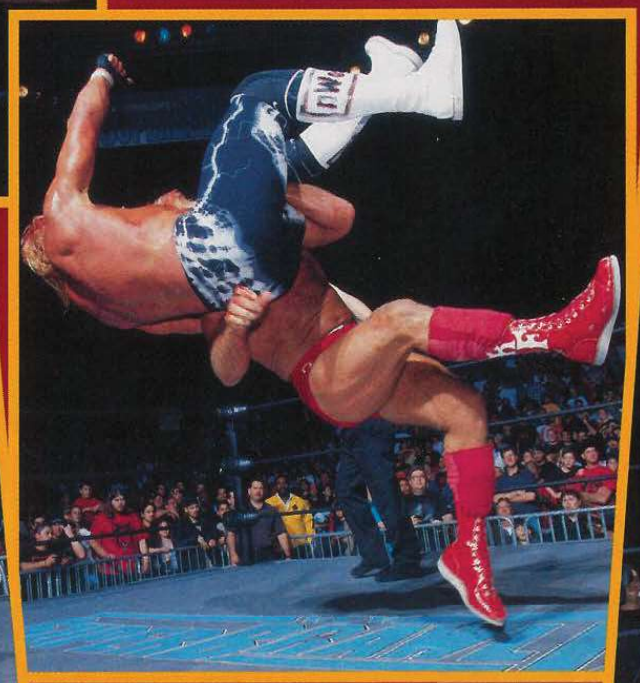

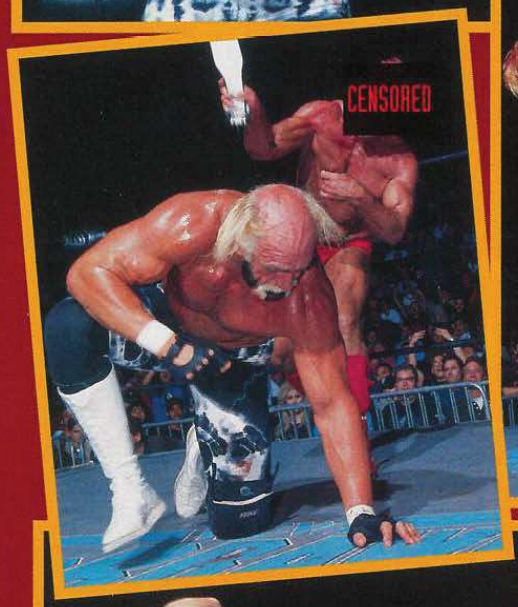
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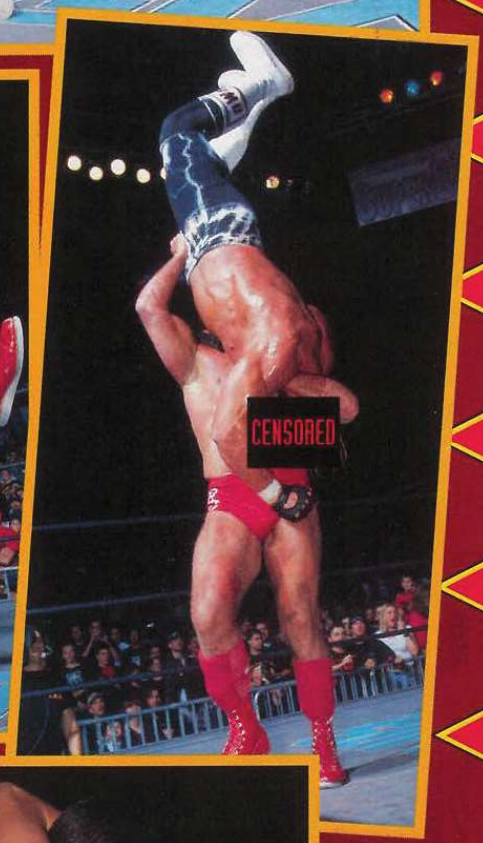
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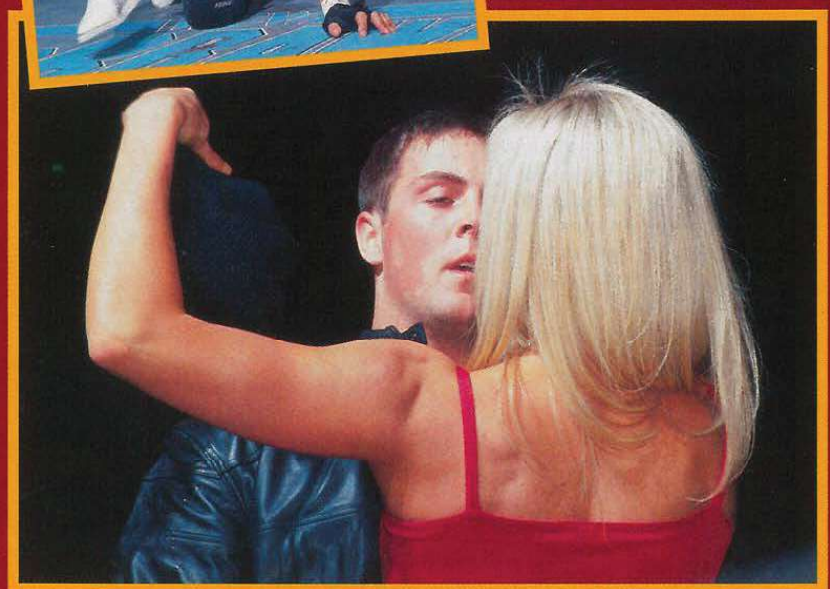


BRAIN REACTION

Bobby The Brain Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT and Thunder on TBS. He also serves as color commentator on PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!

Attention humanoids! It's I, Bobby The Brain Heenan, back for another month of expert analysis. As you all know, on these pages you get the sort of dead-on commentary that only an award winning broadcast journalist can give. It's safe to say that this column, like all my previous printed passages, belongs in wrestling's mecca right next to Yakno Eric's ear and Bordon Salle's shot glass. So now, because it's getting very thick in here, on to the shouting ...

By the way did I mention that I am the WCW Magazine Announcer of the Year?

Ever wonder what happened to Steve Mongo McMichael's old dog Pepe? The answer was revealed at SuperBrawl. The mutt's been wrestling as Ray Mysterio, Jr.!!! Seriously, when he took off his mask I searched my mind trying to remember if Peter Lorre and Stingy ever had a kid.

Speaking of the cruiserweights, have you had a chance to check out this kid, Blitzkrieg? He pulls off some of the most incredible aerial moves I've ever seen. But I can't help wondering about this guy's outfit. I know for a fact that these wrestlers make pretty good money and I can't believe that he can't find anything better to wear than an old Kmart Halloween costume. First of all, wrestling in capes just isn't safe. That stuff is flammable you know! Second, you should at least make sure the costume fits. It looks like he's going to go skydiving in that getup; though that may be appropriate given his loring style. Attention Kmart shoppers. Blue light special, aisle nine, luchador masks.

Can somebody please translate the above paragraph into Japanese and then use it to explain to Kaz Hayashi how ridiculous he looks?

Can you believe this? Topps produced a wrestling card featuring referee Mickey Jay. That's not the unbelievable part of the story, although it should be. What were they thinking? No, the unbelievable part is that he ordered them reprinted when someone pointed out to him that (well you

Frederick Vietlin

Paul Bonnes

side I think a man who struggles to count to three could read?) Ross Forman had spelled his name wrong. What an ego.

Let me get this straight, Ric Flair (The Immortal One) turns on Sting (The Newborn To Be Seen One) at least 900 times over the course of his career and he's surprised when his son, David, turns on him to cost him the title? Ric, didn't you think the kid was watching all these years? He's only doing what you taught him. I know that deep down inside you, way past the disappointment you feel, there's a part of you that's very proud. Admit it Ric, that is most definitely your son and check out the blonde by his side, Whoooooooooooooo!

I was very upset to hear that the Seattle Seahawks had cut Warren Moon from their roster. Oh well, look at the upside. Now he'll be able to concentrate on his wrestling career as Norman Smiley. On a related note, I'm willing to bet $10,000 that at some point this year, an NFL star will do Smiley's Big Wiggin in the end zone. But you didn't know that I'm a southsayer? Bobby Heenan, contemporary oracle ... I like the sound of that.

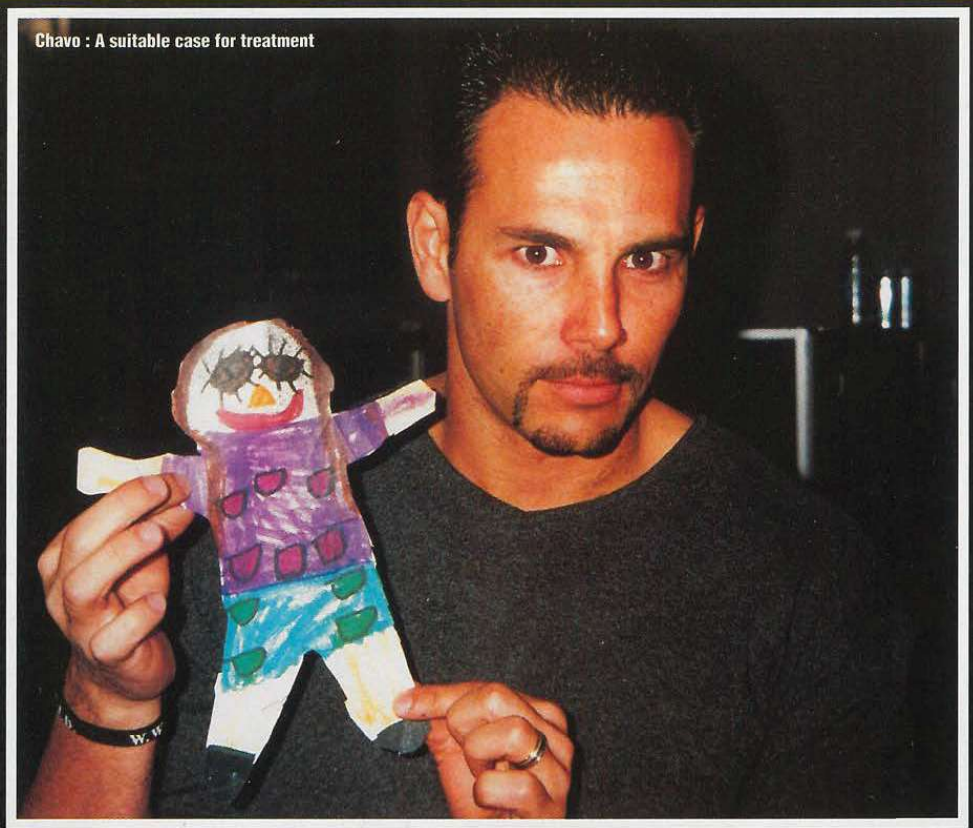
Everyone keeps telling me that this is the age of the Internet. It scares me to think that that may be true. Especially considering that wrestling's biggest Internet ambassadors are Mark Madden (unbelievably big), Chad Damiani (almost as big), and Jeff Katz (not as big, but twice as ugly). These guys have faces made for the Internet, so maybe that's not such a bad thing. And speaking about this dog Katz, isn't it about time Eric Bischoff had him sectored?

On a serious note, I'm beginning to think that the feud between Scott Steiner and Diamond Dallas Page has gone too far. When Page gets back, these guys are going to kill each other. I think it's time for J.J. Dillon to step in and try and work something out. I know that the WCW Executive Committee doesn't want to be responsible for any further injuries to either man, but I truly think that that's where this feud is heading. Despite Page's current injuries, you know that he's just stewing at home waiting for the chance to get one more shot at Big Poppa Pump. This could get lethal.

X-Dogg's rap video had me really impressed. Stop snickering, I'm serious! In fact, I think that Kennan may be ready to take his place among such rap heavyweights as Vanilla Ice, Snow, and Marky Mark. Though I think we may all be doing X-Dogg a public service by reminding him to PULL UP HIS PANTS!!! I, too, am a big fan of Calvin Klein's work in the undergarment industry, but you don't see me showing everyone, do you?

Where is Alex Wright? Can anyone tell me? Last I heard, he'd gone back to Germany to break up on his

Ghost up Mark Big Wiggin



Chavo : A suitable case for treatment

knowledge of expressionism and Kraftwerk. In all seriousness, you Alex Wright fans out there (all nine of you) will be glad to know that Alex will be back on television soon. He ll be replacing Dieter as the new host of *Sprockets*. Touch my monkey, Das Wunderkind.

Disco Inferno is starting to grow on me. Any time a wrestler has the gumption to come to the ring singing Neil Diamond songs, he automatically jumps up a few spots in my book. There is, however, no truth to the rumor that Disco Inferno is going to be joining the touring company of *The Jazz Singer*. And following his performance during Konnan s video, Def Jam won t be in touch anytime soon, either.

From the Can Anybody Really Be Stupider Than Penzer file: Disco Inferno announced to everyone that the richest man in the world was John Paul Gates! Next stop *Jeopardy,* Einstein!

Chavo Guerrero gets weirder and weirder. Since Pepe s demise, he has been receiving counseling from his therapist a 6-inch high paper cutout doll named Stanley.

Shouldn t there have been a check with my Reader Award?

Prom Queen

Is Saturn Scott Hall s role model? Want some proof. Check out Scott s Aunt Jemima ensemble from Nitro in Tampa.

Cross-dressing seems to be the latest WCW craze, however I wish Ralphus would jump off the bandwagon. If Saturn is the bald bombshell, Ralphus is the bald fall-out. I just wish he d keep the bits that are falling out well hidden.

Funniest sight in wrestling this month: David Penzer.

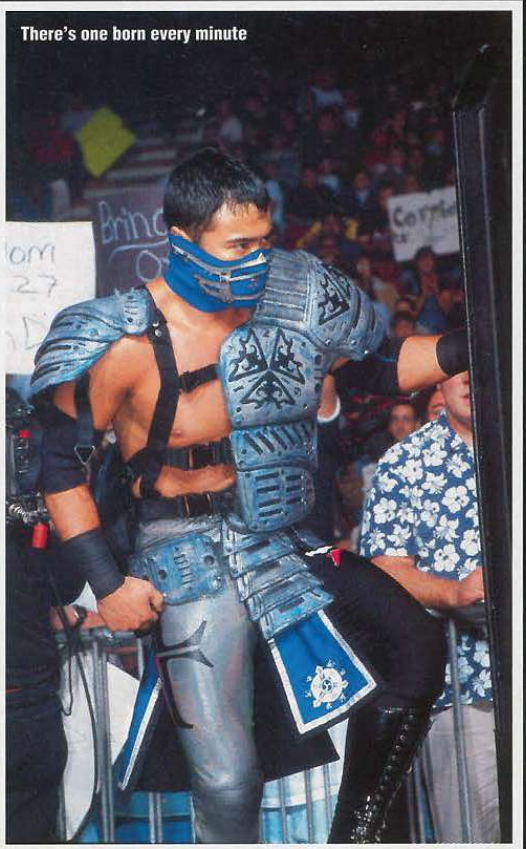
Funniest sight in wrestling: David Penzer.

Scariest sight ever: David Penzer topless on *Inside Edition*.

And finally, from the Unmitigated Poking of Fun at Mike Tenay Department, comes, you guessed it, unmitigated poking of fun at Mike Tenay! You d never know it, but The Professor is actually the vainest of all the wrestling announcers in WCW. When he s not calling Nitro or Thunder matches, or spending time in Tijuana, Tenay likes to be pampered in some of Atlanta s top spas. I guess he just doesn t feel ready to call a cruiserweight battle until he s had a good, long mud bath. In Tenay s defense, the man does cook one heck of a seaweed wrap.

Okay humanoids, I m outta here. I ll be back next month with more words of wisdom from the most underpaid man in magazine history. Don t forget to check me out on Nitro, each and every Monday night.

Bobby



There's one born every minute

Wrestling is HOT

Buff Bagwell was in heaven: A national television audience, a nationally syndicated talk show, and a host eager to see his sculpted, bronzed bod.

Nothing could be finer.

For February sweeps, executives at *The Jenny Jones Show* knew a pro wrestling-related show would draw big ratings. They headed straight for the stars of World Championship Wrestling and the New World Order: Bagwell, Disco Inferno, Riggs, Saturn, and Kidman. Along for the ride were Nitro Girls Chae, Spice, and Storm as well as manager Jimmy Hart.

It was a rockin' hour at the NBC Tower in downtown Chicago, home of *The Jenny Jones Show*. WCW/nWo invaded the daily gabfest, which aired February 19th, two days before SuperBowl IX.

"I thought it was great; it was a thrill to be on *The Jenny Jones Show*," said Hart, who also recently appeared on wrestling-related specials on MTV and VH1. "Something like 10 million households watch *The Jenny Jones Show* every day, five days a week. That's a lot of people. Many people have literally grown up with Jenny Jones, including the 'Mouth of The South,' Jimmy Hart.

"What was so great about the show was the whole show was about wrestling, not just a 15-minute segment. Thus, it gave the fans a chance to see the wrestlers in a unique setting, where they're not knocking each other upside the head with a chair or something like that.

"When (TV executives) want ratings, they get wrestlers because they know we draw the viewers."

Bagwell and Disco were the show's first two guests, answering questions from the host and fans, including an overweight, red-painted "wrestler" calling himself The Stinger. (Not even close to our Stinger.) Plus, Jones surprised a female visitor who thought she was at a "Crazy Wrestling Fans" show, when, in reality, Jones introduced the fan to her all-time favorite: Bagwell.

Disco was hitted by a male fan who questioned his qualifications for membership of the Wolfpac. Disco quickly countered; then, when Saturn arrived on the show, he too supported Disco's athletic merits, and degraded the fan's physique by asking him to remove his shirt, exposing a soft stomach — much to Disco and Buff's delight, who feigned illness and gagged at the sight of the lovable.

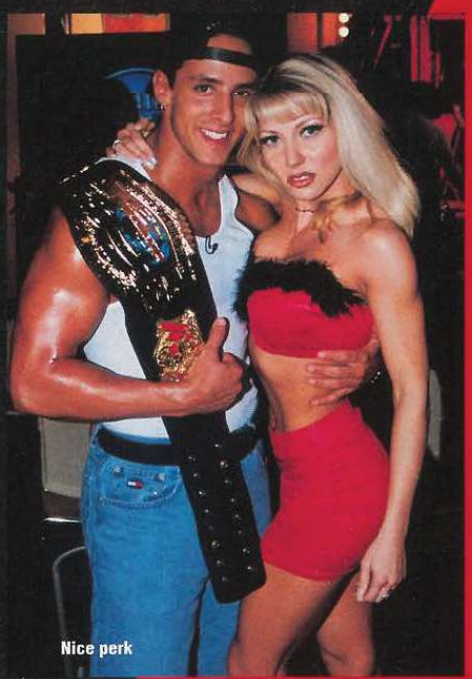
Moscow Mallee, a popular, nationally-syndicated

disc jockey based in Chicago (host of Moscow's Morning Madhouse on 97.1-FM), served as the official ring announcer, introducing all of the WCW/nWo stars. Moscow even had the best seat in the house: Between the Nitro Girls.

"It was cool being on the show, especially after having watched it for so many years. It's kind of weird being on a show that you watch. It was a great experience. I had a real good time," Chae said. "One of my personal highlights of the show was

A match made in heaven?

Ring masters


Nice perk

when Mancow announced our engagement on national TV. That was very special to me." (*Editor's Note to Mancow: Ain't gonna happen!*)

Said Storm, who grew up in Gary, IN, about an hour south of Chicago, "It was fun to be home and great to tell family and friends: 'Hey, I'm on TV, here in my hometown.' I want to be on the show again."

Kidman arrived midway into the show, with the Cruiserweight Championship belt draped over his shoulder, and a knockout blonde at his side. Shortly after Kidman's arrival on the show, Jones asked him to leave temporarily, so she could introduce a die-hard Kidman fan. She came out and, seconds later, was hugging a rose-carrying Kidman. Then, after she had displayed her knowledge about Kidman (courtesy of our 2 Question Interviews), Saturn went behind Kidman and his female fan and asked that they pose for pictures, then pressured Kidman to kiss her.

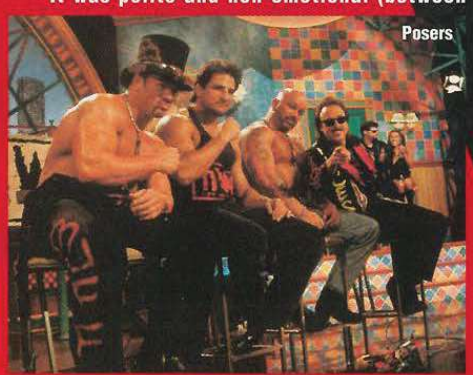
"It was polite and non-emotional (between Kidman and the fan), so, to goof around, I snuck up behind Kidman and tried to get the two to kiss," Saturn said. "I just wanted to see a kiss."

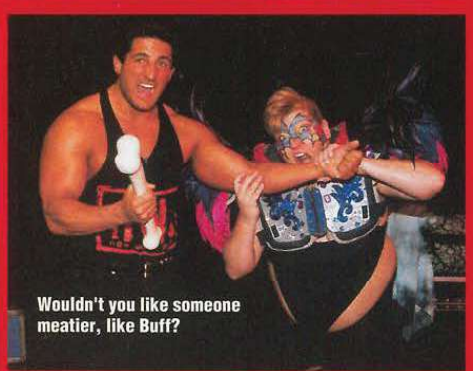
One of the show's funniest moments was a pre-taped segment featuring "Bone Crusher Jones," a fearless fighter portrayed by the host and coached by Kidman. She battled an up-and-coming wrestler managed by Disco.

"I thought Jenny did a great job. She's always been such a professional," Hart said. "She treated us very, very well. And she really wasn't that bad in the ring. In fact, I told her, 'The only thing keeping her from the big time is a good manager.' She definitely could be in my First Family. She could be the First Lady of the First Family."

Said Saturn, "The crowd was full of wrestling fans; that was pretty cool. As for Jenny Jones herself, well, my favorite story about the whole show goes back to when she met us in the green room before the show. She was posing for pictures with all of us and, when she saw oil on Bagwell's arms and chest, she said, 'Please don't touch me because of the oil; these clothes aren't mine; they are rentals.' Well, I've been doing a lot of dress shopping of late and I don't think her dress could have cost that much ... so the very first thing I did was walk up behind her and wrap my arms around her and pose for a picture. Hey, with all the 'shopping' I do, and I go to the good stores, I had never seen the clothes that she was wearing. I never even knew you could rent dresses. What, it's like a tuxedo — you rent it, wear it, then return it?"

Everyone had a great time and wrestling fans got to see another side of their favorite wrestlers.


Posers


Wouldn't you like someone meatier, like Buff?

Say cheese

HEAR THE HOWL OF 6,000 HORSES

THE ROAR OF SCREAMING FANS

AND IF YOU SHIFT TOO LATE

THE WHISTLE OF A PISTON

FLYING AT YOUR HEAD.

PRO DRAG RACING

Careful with that car, son, that's 6,000 horsepower you're sitting on. This is Pro Drag Racing. Drag racing at its nitro-burning, ear-splitting, toupee-flipping best. Tuck your keester behind the wheel of a Stock, Pro Stock, Funny Car, or a Top Fuel rocket. Wait for the Christmas tree to light, then put the pedal to the firewall. Punch through the gears. But mind your RPMs. You start redlining, the car starts shaking. Push your engine too hard, and you'll be picking carburetor out of your teeth. When the chute pops, check your RT, ET and MPH. And your heart rate. Because with Pro Drag Racing, you're in for the ride of your life.

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PARKER BROTHERS

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K-DOGG'S LOW RIDE

Yo. It's that time again, for the K-Diggity-Dogg to give you the rundown on WCW and the stills.

Let's start with Ray's mask. We got up a good fight at SuperBrawl in Oakland, but there were just too many of them. Ray ended up losing his mask, as you know, but it's all good. I think adversity breeds character, and he'll come out a lot stronger for it. A lot of you people may not know this, but back in the day (1990), I used to wear a mask and I too had mine in a controversial ending of a match against Mexicans legend Perro Aguayo ... but from that time, my career skyrocketed. I'm sure the same will happen with Ray-Ray, who, immediately after losing his mask, defeated Kevin Nash and Scott Hall in consecutive Monday Nitros. Not too many can say they have defeated Nash AND Hogan in one, let alone in back-to-back weeks. Ray-Ray is starting to get his homeboy grind on, as he's now dressing like the K-Diggity.

There are guys with big paychecks and big egos ... that often equates to overconfidence, especially when they're in there against someone like little Ray-Ray.

Lex looks kinda funny with that bionic arm ... and the Michael Jackson glove. Before SuperBrawl, I told Ray that we've got to have cook Lex, just like they've done to us. We let them know that we ain't gone down like that. We got one on them ... and this is just starting. Just imagine what a power happens to Lex cookin' smokin' hardcore we will not be humiliated or stopped on.

Everyone knows that I got it down; I rode hard with the Wolfpac, but to look at who's wrestling the Red & Black now, like Bisco and Scott Steiner ... man! Those guys came from hardly cool to now all of a sudden playa players, hmm. All you boys can read hip-hop magazines, watch videos, and try to regurgitate game, but all real readers ... and all the real Jiggaboos ... know that you should never step into The Hood. That's anywhere from Southwest San Diego to Cabrini-Green in Chi-town. They know that if they ever want in there, they'd be told and wouldn't know what the kick-back was and they'd have their butts handed to 'em. You guys can keep hustlin' and pimpalatin', and you may be able to beat those who don't know, but to those who do ... you're just playin' yourself.

Ric Flair and Hollywood Hogan have been at it for months and still I gots to say it: These are two of the greatest legends in our sport. I think they have been the two biggest names in our sport over the past 20 years. Hogan has manipulated this woman to turn Ravish Flair away from his dad's side ... and yet she honestly don't understand one bit in him. Hogan is the most treacherous player in the game. He doesn't just want to beat Ric ... he wants to humiliate him. But Ric is an old gunslinger and he's gonna come back with his grind. On a personal note, Hogan and Flair need to start letting the new generation get their shine on.

Bottom line, if you don't like wrestling ... don't watch it! And if there's something you find offensive ... don't watch it. And if you don't approve of a show's content ... don't let your children watch it.

My current movie reviews:

Payback. It wasn't as dope as other Mel Gibson movies.

She's All That. It was weak.

Snatch. That was tight!

For those of you who keep wondering about my CD or video, right now we're talking with Tommy Boy Records and, hopefully, we'll come down the final word as to whether or not I'll be signing with them or another label. But you and Mad Dog definitely will be dropping something in the summer.

In my second music video, I just wanted to show the same elements of how La Raza kicks it. A little more money was invested in the video by WCW, so it came out looking a little cleaner, but I know the people will be the final judge. The song is called *Juguete Asesino*, and you'll be able to get it on the new album when we do it. The cool stuff that I were in that video was just giving props to the cuate, how they dressed. I was giving props to old school G's. And it's something I am even thinking of wearing into the ring in the near future. Tell me what you think of that idea. Check out the Dogg at the end of that video wearing a grey scarf suit ... yeah, it's little Ray-Ray. Kid Frost, an L.A. rap legend, is also in the video, as one of the real vatos.

My third video will be filmed late this spring in Miami, my hometown. Look for a different side of the Latino game in that video.

Thanks to the following fans for the letters, drawings, suggestions, etc. My Dogga of the Month are: Ron Hawkins (Huntington, WV), Christy Dannegger (Durham, NC), Jackie McCall (Newkensington, PA), Miss K. Ware (Cambridgeshire, England), Jade (New Zealand), Martin McCracken (Galway, IRE), Kristiana Sammes (Perth, Australia), Tamika (Auckland, NEW), Angel Van Meter (Akron, OH), Charity Keane (Springfield, MO), and James Gregg (Oshkosh, WI).

Thanks for all for the tight drawings, to all the ladies, for the sexy pictures, and especially, the suggestions.

I want to shout a shout out to Jason Williams of the Sacramento Kings, who is one of my Doggs and he should win the NBA Rookie of the Year Award.

I'm a life long Boston Red Sox fan, so I'm really mad at the fact that they let Mo Vaughn go. I can't believe the fans haven't asked for the General Manager's head.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: I'm a big fan of anything from No Limit.

SWAT is throwing up hard. He really swelled up this year. All his stuff is real tight.

Oscar De La Hoya was lucky to have had that great last round in his last fight ... because Oscar definitely lost that fight. Personally, I think Oscar's been partying too much and took it easy.

By the time you read this, I might have my own crew together because Ray-Ray and me ain't gonna be enough to take out the cliks. I know there's strength in numbers, but I gots to be careful who I pick. Who would I like to have by my side? Eddy Guerrero, Billy Kidman, Juventud Guerrero, Psychosis, and ... well, this one will surprise you: Scott Hall. I relate to him real well; I gots a bit of fun 4 him.

Keep Gangsta. If you in the D-Double and remember, it's all about the side hoes.

K-Dogg

P.S. Special shouts to some all my fro Doggs: Rosa Fuentes, Carlos Vasquez, Dominik Gutierrez, Mad One, Nahee Torres, and Chuck. Thank you, Doggs, for support. I luv. Even though we don't always agree, and we often have our fight, you are my real Jiggaboo.

two question INTERVIEW

Megan Fox from South Pasadena, CA wanted to know two very different things: personal and political.

1. What is the strangest gift a fan has ever given you?

2. If you ran for President of the United States, who would be your running mate?

MIKEY WHIPWRECK
1. Pack of glow-in-the-dark condoms
2. Jesse Ventura

HAK
1. Light beer
2. Howard Stern

DAVID FLAIR
1. Chocolate ... and I think he really liked me
2. Ozzy Osbourne

SAMANTHA
1. Underwear
2. Hulk Hogan

SATURN
1. I don't get any gifts
2. Traci Lords, because late-night campaigning would be quite entertaining

TONY SCHIAVONE
1. A pair of pink and white bedroom slippers ... and they were really ugly
2. Nitro Girl Spice

SONNY ONOO
1. A suit
2. Nitro Girl Chae

VINCENT
1. Adult toys
2. Not Stevie Ray

HORACE HOGAN
1. Japanese sandals
2. Jerry Flynn

JERRY FLYNN
1. Keys to her apartment
2. Hillary Clinton

BILLY KIDMAN
1. A pair of panties
2. Adam Sandler

JUVENTUD GUERRERA
3. Scooby Doo underwear, and on the back it said, Scooby Juice
4. God

NORMAN SMILEY
1. A homemade clock that didn't work
2. Dan Quayle ... because he'd make me seem smart

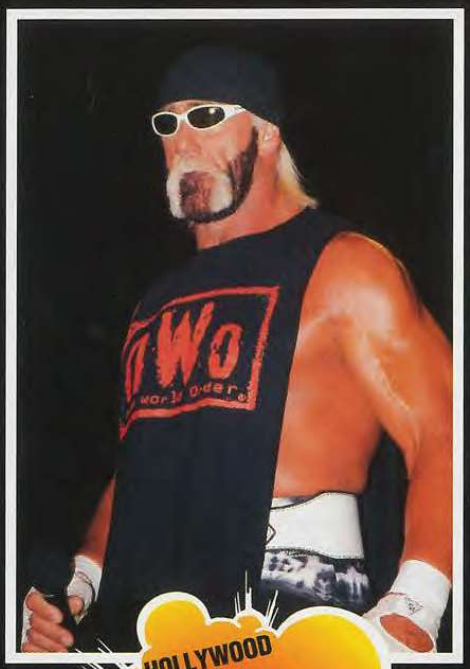
MIKE TENAY
1. The Bic lighter that was thrown at me in Peoria
2. Bobby Heenan

LARRY ZBYSZKO
1. A baby bottle
2. Pro golfer Greg Norman

BOBBY HEENAN
1. A year's supply of Victoria's Secret merchandise
2. Ralphus (the country deserves him

ERNEST MILLER
1. His wife, for a night
2. Stevie Ray

J.J. DILLON
1. Honorary Citizen of El Paso. Why? I really don't know
3. George Steinbrenner



HOLLYWOOD HOGAN
1. I best not answer that, but there definitely have been a lot of them
2. Oprah, definitely. She s straight-up, real, honest. If not her, Lee Iacocca

BLITZKRIEG
1. Nothing
2. Bas Rutten

RAVEN
1. A round of applause
2. Saturn

SCOTT STEINER
1. Well ... it needs batteries
2. Any one of Playboy s Playmates

KAOS
1. Underwear
2. Jesse Ventura

FIT FINLAY
1. A bag of money
2. Dave Taylor

BILLY SILVERMAN
1. T-shirts
2. George Bush, Jr.

CHRIS JERICHO
1. A Chris Jericho heart-shaped clock
2. Paul Stanley

COLIN BOWMAN answers by Chris Jericho
1. A box of granola with raisins
2. Gavin MacLeod ... you gotta love Captain Stubing!

CHARLES ROBINSON
1. A teddy bear
2. Of course, Ric Flair

PRINCE IAUKEA
1. Shoes
2. Jerry Springer

RALPHUS
1. Flowers
2. Chris Jericho

STEVIE RAY
1. Sweet potato pie
2. Ernest Miller

CURT HENNIG
1. $840,000
2. Jesse Ventura

BOBBY DUNCUM, JR.
1. Soap, in Japan
2. George Bush, Jr.

RICK STEINER
1. A pair of socks
2. Rush Limbaugh

MIKE ENOS
1. Used lingerie
2. A.C. Jazz

CHAVO GUERRERO, JR.
1. Toothpaste
2. David Penzer

DISCO INFERNO
1. A ham sandwich
2. Scott Hall

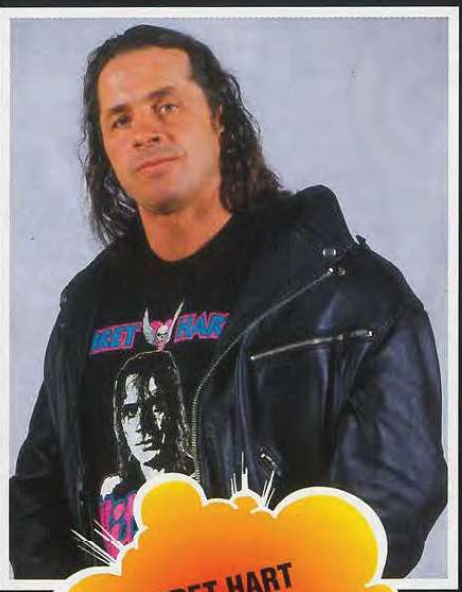
SUPER CALO
1. A drawing of Spiderman
2. The Dalai Lama

ARN ANDERSON
1. Their autograph
2. Meng

JIMMY HART
1. A zipper, which I received during my music career
2. Hulk Hogan

REY MYSTERIO, JR.
1. Normal stuff, just flowers, candy, and teddy bears
2. K-Dogg

RANDY SAVAGE
1. Whips and chains
2. Bill Clinton. Actually, he would be my Secretary of Social Activities



BRET HART
1. A shirt with my name on it
2. Mario Cuomo

CHASTITY
1. His underwear
2. My dad

A.C. JAZZ
1. Just normal stuff
2. Don t worry, I would never (run)

Life's a DRAG!

J.J. Dillon has created a monster — whether he knows it, admits it, or even cares. He's created a crazed wrestler in a miniskirt and other skimpy (some would say sexy, if worn by a blonde named Sassy) outfits. And this wrestler is bald, tattooed, and multi-pierced.

Did we mention this wrestler is a man?

Talk about a man's man, one of the boys, one rugged hombre. That is Perry Saturn. Try calling the new-look Saturn a girly-man and you're definitely going to taste a knuckle sandwich.

1999 has been an 'different' year for the 32-year-old father of one.

Jump back to Souled Out this past January. Remember that Pay-Per-View extravaganza? That's when Saturn lost to Chris Jericho, and was forced by pre-match stipulations to wear a dress.

Dillon deemed the dress necessary attire for Saturn, thanks, of course, to a wee bit of coaching from the eccentric Jericho. This despite referee Scott Dickenson's immoral, unethical, and unprofessional conduct during the match.

Saturn in a dress. Jericho silenced. Dickenson suspended without pay for 30 days.

That was the official wintertime ruling from the almighty Chairman of the WCW Executive Committee.

Yep, life's a drag for Saturn.

And a nightmare.

"This (dress wearing) is not the most pleasant thing I've ever done, but I've got to think it's worse to be losing to the guy in a dress than actually wearing a dress," Saturn said. "I've got an 11-year-old son who has regularly been sent home from school because he's fighting kids who are teasing him because his dad wears a dress. And my high society in-laws are really riding my wife's back because they feel I'm an embarrassment to the family, showing up on national TV wearing a dress. I can only imagine what my old Army buddies are thinking and saying about me. And my former wrestling coach, Killer Kowalski; I know he's in shock. The poor old man, I hope he doesn't die of a heart attack when he sees me on TV in a dress. He really doesn't understand this. In his day, they didn't do this.

"I'm a very proud man, a former Airborne Ranger. I've succeeded at everything I've wanted to in life. Now all of a sudden I'm stuck in a dress, being ridiculed by my fellow workers, constantly ribbed, what with guys leaving flowers and obscene cards in my locker ... this isn't fun."

Life might not be fun for Saturn, but it certainly seems fun for Dickenson and Dillon, perhaps the dastardly duo that contrived the stipulation in the first place. One might question whether Jericho was even behind the pre-match stipulation, or, on the Monday Nitro after Souled Out, simply informing Dillon of the small print in the contract.

Could it really be that Dillon is doing his best to dog Saturn? Is there animosity between the two? Or is this merely pure coincidence?

Saturn has his ideas. "J.J. Dillon put me in this situation, yet he didn't have to. If J.J. Dillon had questions about the ending of the match, and he even suspended the referee for 30 days without pay, then he also should have granted me a rematch, reversed the decision (of the PPV match), or quite simply, not enforced the stipulation.

"But no, J.J. Dillon just figures a man like myself wearing a dress on national TV ... that's good TV ratings."

It isn't immediately about the Benjamins to Dillon. Nope, it's the Nielsen ratings that counts the most to someone in Dillon's post.

"If you aren't much of a wrestling fan, yet you're channel surfing one Monday night and you see me out there, in a dress, I'm sure you're gonna stop and see what's going on. It's like a car wreck; you can't help but look. And the more horrific the crash is, the more you look," Saturn said. "And who's the least likely person to wear a dress? Me. Now ya see where I'm coming from?!"

Saturn's stylish silk numbers have gotten more bizarre by day. And so has Saturn himself. Check out his eyes, the make-up and the leather outfits.

Marilyn Manson, are you a wrestling fan? Saturn, are you a Marilyn Manson fan?

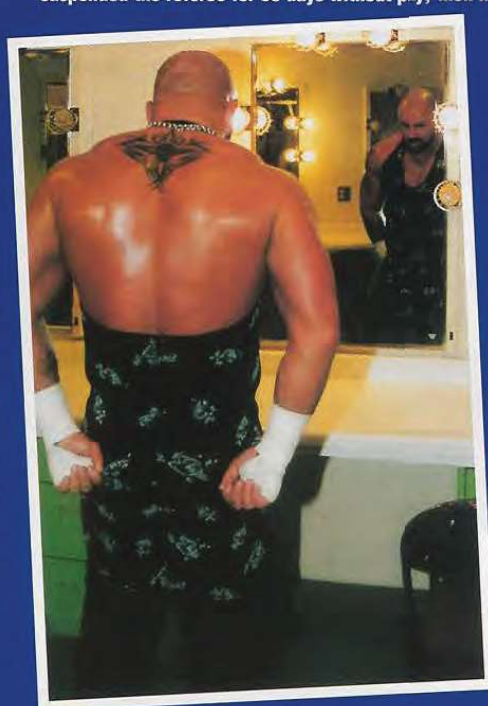
Saturn's not only powerful ... he's also pretty. But don't say that to him.

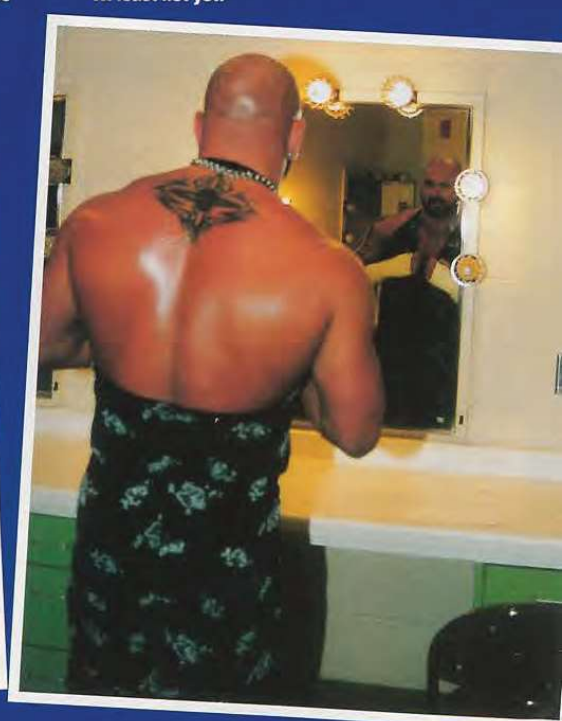
"Some of the other wrestlers have asked whether or not I'm in the right locker room," Saturn said. "Some have even suggested that I dress with the Nitro Girls. I've suggested I dress with the Nitro Girls too, but a couple of them have refused. Then again, a couple of them are quite insistent that I dress with them ... and also swap clothes."

So how strange has Saturn become? Well, we spotted several compacts of blush among his wrestling gear.

Sorry, but this is WCW — not *The Jerry Springer Show.*

At least not yet.





Questioning Saturn about the blush wasn't a good move.

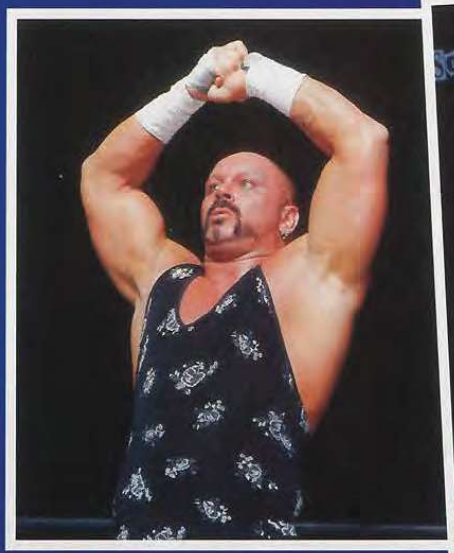
"Wipe that smirk off your face, or I'll stick my dress over your head and punch your lights out," he said before the question could be finished. "I don't even know what blush is. It bothers me more that you know what blush is.

"STAY OUT OF MY BAGS. IF I SEE YOU GOING THROUGH MY BAGS, I'LL STICK YOU IN MY BAGS — FOR GOOD!"

Yes folks, Dillon pushed Saturn to the brink. Now Saturn — of his own free will — is jumping over it.

"Sooner or later, J.J. Dillon is going to have to answer why a bald man in drag is beating up all his million-dollar talent," Saturn said. "J.J. drew first blood. He shouldn't have done what he did. Yeah, I can easily blame Jericho, but he only did what I would have done in this situation.

"The answer and the problem lies in J.J. Dillon."



So what does Dillon have to say about all of this? Not much. When cornered recently and he simply said, "Saturn must wear the dress because of the pre-match stipulation." Dillon would not answer any other questions and, through his secretary, we were told that he won't be making any future comments about the subject.

"J.J. Dillon, in all his infinite wisdom as the Chairman of the WCW Executive Committee, or whatever his title is, has, for some reason, decided to play God," Saturn said. "Why does J.J. get to pick and choose what happens? Let's face it, he's doing it strictly to benefit himself so that when raise time comes around, he can say and show how ratings improved when Saturn was on, because he was wearing a dress which he insisted I wear."

But what about referee Dickenson, once a Boston buddy with Saturn, now nothing but a snickering, scummy referee-on-the-take? "Let's face it, Scott Dickenson ain't all there," Saturn said. "Maybe someone can explain to me how, on a referee's meager salary, he can afford to follow WCW around the country and purchase ringside seats at all our shows. He's got airplane tickets to buy, rental cars or taxis to and from the airports, hotels, etc. Where's he getting this money? From Dillon?

"For all I know, J.J. is in cahoots with Scott Dickenson who's in cahoots with Jericho."

Talk about a conspiracy.

Where are Jericho's legal wizards when ya need 'em?

"I'm gonna make the best of a bad situation: I'm gonna make a statement," Saturn said.

"I know J.J. has guidelines that he's gotta follow. Well, I'm gonna push those guidelines. And really push 'em."

Can Saturn push Dillon into signing him for championship matches? Saturn is, after all, the former Television Champ.

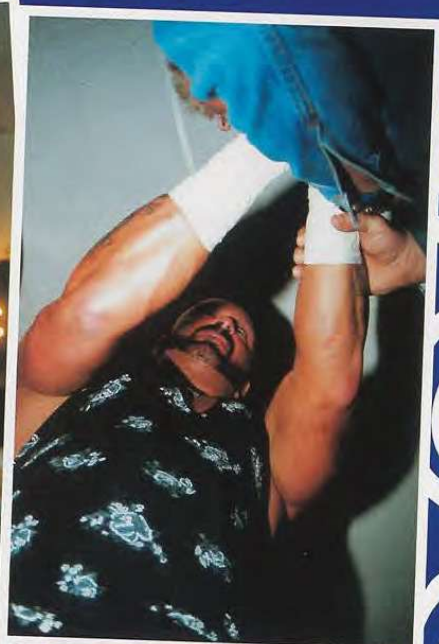
Imagine that, a seductive number from Victoria's Secret ... and a championship belt?

"J.J. wants the guy in the dress on his TV show, but would curl up and die if I won any of his precious championship belts," he said. "It's like ... you want the big dog in your neighborhood to scare away the burglars; you just don't want the big dog living next to you." Saturn added: "I can't put into words how embarrassing my life has become. You can't imagine what it feels like to listen to the comments from the storeowners, from the die-hard fans, from the casual fans, from everyone. Even all the non-wrestling fans.

"If anything, this dress has lit a fire under me. I'm more aggressive and more determined now. I'm not interested at all in looking like I look AND LOSING; that's not an option."

"You know, they wanted me in a dress and now they got me. Each time I step into the ring, I am going to push it to the limit. I wore green contacts, a leather skirt, and chains for my dog collar match against Jericho at UnCensored — and who came out the winner? Me. They want me in drag — they got me. In FULL drag. But make no mistake about it. No matter what I look like, I am there to win each and every match they put me in. People should be careful what they wish for."

Or in this case, what stipulations they decree.



Hotline

by Mark Madden **THE KING OF ALL WRESTLING MEDIA**

DISCLAIMER: [illegible]

In basketball, they need rules. It would be [illegible] if the referees [illegible] unlicensed businessmen.

In football, they need rules. Snapping an extra football onto play or losing 15 more on dissent would damage the integrity of the game immeasurably.

In hockey, they need rules. Breaking someone with a stick should be kept to a minimum.

In basketball, they need rules. Everyone allowing Dennis Rodman in one bodied also.

But in wrestling, they don't need rules.

I wish every Pay-Per-View were like Vengeance — all unsanctioned matches, where anything goes. Forget Raven's Rules or Bret's Rules. It should be no rules, man.

Let's look at what we are wrestling to. It's not the ballet. It's more trying to overlook every officer by any means necessary. You don't keep score. It's not a Hollywood spot. A severe ugly work where you lose consistently has other long enough to get a three-count, which takes a lot of suffering, so when and once matches overtime gets ok.

You can ask the fans at least to a wear's broke with a cheaper hold. So why can't you choose two?

You can make a rule quit with a figure four submission or a Boston crab. So why can't you finish the job and decide the tag?

You can gauge a man's worth as long as you stop doing it within a count of two. Once you can start doing it again, don't that kind of magic?

Wrestling knows a few time honors that's kept and what's not.

So why know the how at all?

Leave it to a bleeding heart like Chad Damiani to weep like a washerwoman over the terrible things that go on in wrestling. This is a man's game, Chad. Crap. If you don't like it, get out. It would improve the quality of the network broadcasts, too.

Wrestling isn't about homoeroticism or weddings or headbutts. It's not even about good. Finishing sloppiness like the Diamond Cutter or the Rainbow's Edge.

To quote Mic Foley, it's about bleeding, wrestling, and loving the pain.

It's about being the better man.

Make god in the way of God.

Leave it to a bleeding heart like Chad Damiani to weep like a washerwoman over the terrible things that go on in wrestling.

So do many with them.

[illegible] rules would also require a workable [illegible] wrestling for the entire. The outcome.

It's not that WCW's outcome plan, although most of them do. The problem is that they all outcome differently. Chavlow Rubinstein angrily allows something that Jerry Lawlerstein would not. Whatever any grumpy smark fans everything go. Mark Curtis color it right.

That makes things hazily on the outcomes. A worst situation like Hollywood Hogan has the edge when Mickey any rolls. A straight shooter like Goldberg gets a built-in advantage when Mark Curtis is reviewing the calls.

So whenever the case, then you can's lose anyway. It would actually make things more fair.

The ref's job shouldn't be to count "1-2-3" to maintain the celebration, then solve the hand of the enemy. And that's all.

Even moves were allowed for entertainment. We were gonna to have a coach out.

Don't like someone's way out, anyway. Walk back to the ring and take your licking.

The primary rule of outcome in anything is K.I.S.S., and it has nothing to do with Gene Simmons or Paul Stanley. Keep It Simple, Stupid.

No rules. Fight for a finish. Violence ends, and everybody's happy.

Just looking at wrestling from a logical standpoint — which I realize not many people like to do — how much good do the rules do anyway?

Despite the rules, despite the referees, despite administrative buffoons like Jo-Jo Dillon, despite all the attempts to over-promote into civilization by those who run it, bad things still happen. Weaponry still get stashed behind the referee's back. Things still can a to mess their bookings. Foreign objects still come into play.

Often with strange hands because of hard shots.

The rules exist. But how often are they enforcement compared over the course of an entire event?

Never.

So why bother?

Hollywood Hogan has won 10 World titles, half of them by cheating. He won his last World belt when Kevin Nash intentionally took a dive for him.

Scott Steiner won the TV title with help from Bret Hogan.

Kevin Nash won the U.S. Championship by pinning Buddy Flare while using the ropes for leverage.

Curt Hennig and Barry Windham won the Tag Team titles by cheating Steve Williams with a foul.

How much good was the rules doing?

No good. None whatsoever.

So eliminate them.

(Mark Madden hosts the MCA Hotline on Thursday and Friday. He works a sports talk show on KDKA-AM 1250 out of Pittsburgh, Pa.)

Battle

by Chad "Deli" Damiani

Hair pulling. Leather belts. Group attacks. Groin shots.

No, I'm not referring to Mark Madden's home video collection. The preceding list represents a different kind of romance; wrestling's love affair with cheating and the almighty short cut.

The rule-breaking business has certainly changed over the past few years — especially since the nWo became principal shareholders. In the past, cheap shot artists like Ric Flair would take pride in the clandestine nature of their actions, and focused more on stealing wins than ending careers.

Back then, cheating involved savvy and intelligence; any streetwise palooka can perform a chokehold, but how many fighters can simultaneously distract an official, break a 10-count, and taunt the crowd while surreptitiously playing musical chairs on an opponent's head?

Unfortunately, today's talent doesn't seem to understand the subtle nature of in-ring deception. On an average Nitro, wrestlers will break more rules than Evel Knievel has busted ribs, without any regard for disqualification or the safety of fellow competitors.

Here's a shopping list of common infractions: The nWo holds a WCW employee by his arms and legs, while Hollywood Hogan delivers damage with a weight belt; Arn Anderson equalizes odds with a trusty tire iron; Stevie Ray and Vince send men to the hospital with a SlapJack; Bret Hart breaks legs with a ring post igure-four; Scott Hall stuns; Big Poppa Pump and Buff Daddy remove turnbuckles and deliver opponents into hard steel and unconsciousness.

On an average Nitro, wrestlers will break more rules than Evel Knievel has busted ribs, without any regard for disqualification or the safety of fellow competitors.

And let's not forget about Hak — the wild-eyed psychopath who comes to the ring wrapped in barbed wire, wielding a Singapore Cane. Like his former best friend Raven, Hak refuses to even acknowledge the rules, and wrestles exclusively in no-disqualification matches. Some wrestling executives and competitors feel that Hak and Raven's stipulations border on barbaric.

Others see their extreme style as the future of the sport.

Backstage, a movement exists to rid wrestling of any rules, since wrestlers show no respect for the laws of the ring anyway. The mindset is simple: If these guys want to fight like animals, remove officials, deregulate competition, and open the cage door.

I know my colleague, Madden, thinks this idea has validity, and I have to admit that when WCW has allowed unsanctioned, no-rules matches in the past, they have always supplied plenty of excitement and loads of footage for the highlight reel. People still talk about the fierce battles between Chris Benoit and Kevin Sullivan that spanned entire arenas, including the lavatories. Diamond Dallas Page was elevated to superstardom after his anything-goes war with "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Arguably, the most exciting moments in Horsemen history have involved War Games, the notorious combat zone involving one steel cage, two rings, 10 men, and zero regard for personal safety.

Despite the positives, I am a staunch proponent of keeping the rules. WCW would have to spend more money on insurance and triple the security to protect fans from fights that spill into the crowd. And, considering the crimes wrestlers commit in structured matches, can you imagine what medieval acts of perfidy they would perpetrate sans the rules? A climate of in-ring anarchy could threaten to shorten a wrestler's career by decades.

My real reason for wanting rules, however, is a bit less corporate. Since the days of carnival competition and "tough man" brawls, cheating has been more than a way to equalize a losing battle or stun a larger foe — it has existed as an elusive art form that distinguishes champions from challengers and showstoppers from ring mop boys. Like other mainstream athletes, wrestlers have always prided themselves on their ability to fool officials and treat their opponents to clever chicanery. You could probably draw a parallel between the Vaseline pitch and the SlapJack; Michael Jordan's extra step and Roddy Piper's trademark eye gouge.

The only difference is that wrestling shenanigans usually result in plaster casts and ambulance rides, instead of strikeouts and slam dunks.

Without rules, there can be no rulebreaking ... and I like rulebreaking. I enjoy watching the masters try and escape disqualification while plying their treacherous craft. I revel in their creativity, and laugh at their errors in strategy.

But I get an even greater thrill witnessing giant-killers like Rey Mysterio, Jr. triumph, despite the interference of thugs twice his size, or seeing Goldberg or Sting defeat the nWo at their own villainous game.

Maybe I'm terminally old school, but I still love when good people win, within the rules, because they have more heart and courage than any competitor who chooses to take shortcuts. We need to give athletes the ability to do what's right, amidst the flurry of steel chairs, international objects, and outside interference.

We need to let them choose to be heroes.

INSIDE THE JUNGLE

BY LIONHEART CHRIS JERICHO

A smarmy, sarcastic, holier-than-thou attitude deserves a steamrollin , pulverizing, fist-clenched beating.

Well, congratulations editors and writers of WCW/NWO/JLA/BAC/OWN Magazine; you just earned yourself the said rear end tanning!

Don t think that you re going to get away with this. Don t think you re going to *Escape from New York* this time. Don t think you re going to ride into the sunset, Colin Bowman s inflated head and inflated body balancing astride Ross Boreman s burro-like figure, footloose and fancy free, baby!!! I will have my revenge and my vindication for being insulted with the 1998 Reader Award for Runner-Up of the Year. I mean, is this someone s moronic idea of jocularity? A Friday afternoon prank, perpetrated upon your noble scribe?

Unfortunately, loyal Jerichoholics, the joke is on you. Yeah that s correct, on you.

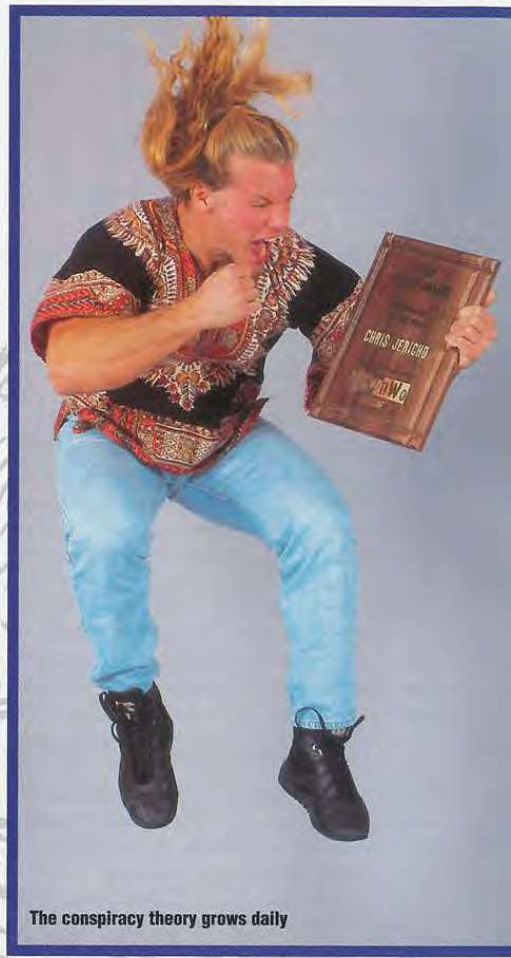
See, after the pathetic shot was fired at me, all of you who expended the effort to vote for these sham awards were thrown in front of the bullet. You don t have to be a brain surgeon to see that the votes were fixed, falsified, tainted and out-and-out changed to benefit my opponents and rob me of my true trophies: Every darn award that this birdcage liner of a magazine was offering!

The evidence is all in front of you. The greatest champion of our time. The most electrifying showman that WCW has to offer. A crack scientific wrestler who guarantees a five-star match each and every night. A brilliant wordsmith whose column is the best and only plus to this rag. What more is there to offer? What other walls must be destroyed, what other forests must be chopped down? Every man, woman, child, and hermaphrodite (Attn.: Klinger Saturn) knows this to be the impenetrable truth. Everyone, of course, save the mentally challenged heads of this periodical.

How is it that I finished as a runner-up in virtually every major category, BUT DIDN T WIN ONE AWARD!?!? The conspiracy continues kids, but this time it s not just against me, it s against all of you. Don t you see? You all voted exclusively for moi, yet were ripped off of your dreams of seeing me take all prizes and crushed as I was left completely empty-handed! I mean come on. Kidman ... Konnan ... Greenberg???? Do you really believe that any of these marks received one serious vote? I mean, I m sure a few jokers included those names as a lark, but how many of those could there actually be?

That s why I m going to do what I can to redeem you people. I m going to demand a recount and if I don t get it, I will declare a corrupt election!! All of the awards will be returned to me and I ll keep them until this whole mess can be straightened out!

So come on, Bowman, open the vaults and face the truth ... or maybe you can t handle the truth! If that s the case, then obviously you can t handle the rigors of running a worldwide magazine. Maybe I ll just have to take that over as well!



The conspiracy theory grows daily

IMPEACH COLIN BOWMAN ...

To be continued next issue. God bless you guys and don t forget www.chrisjericho.com.

CJ

Bowman should be impeached

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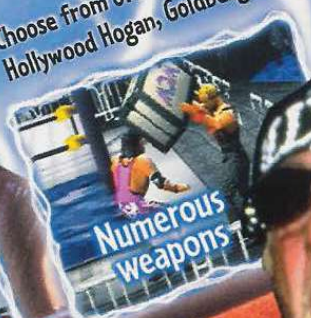

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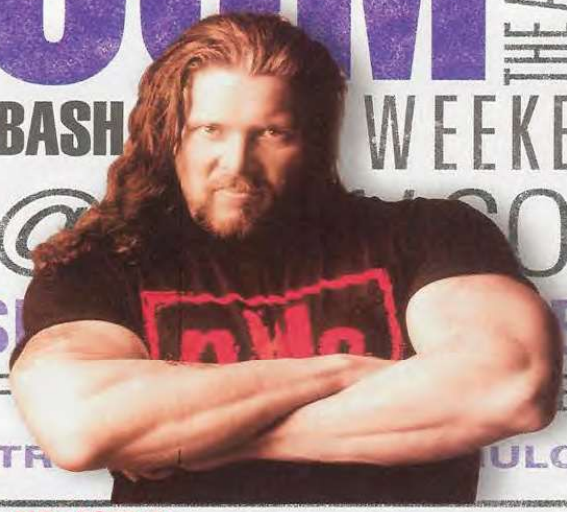

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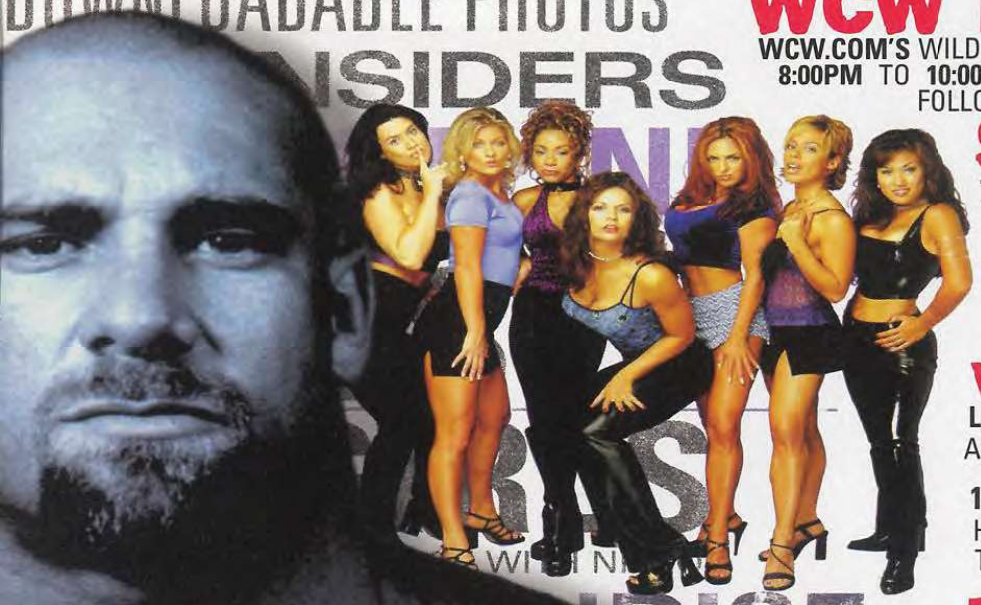

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The man, the myth, the legend

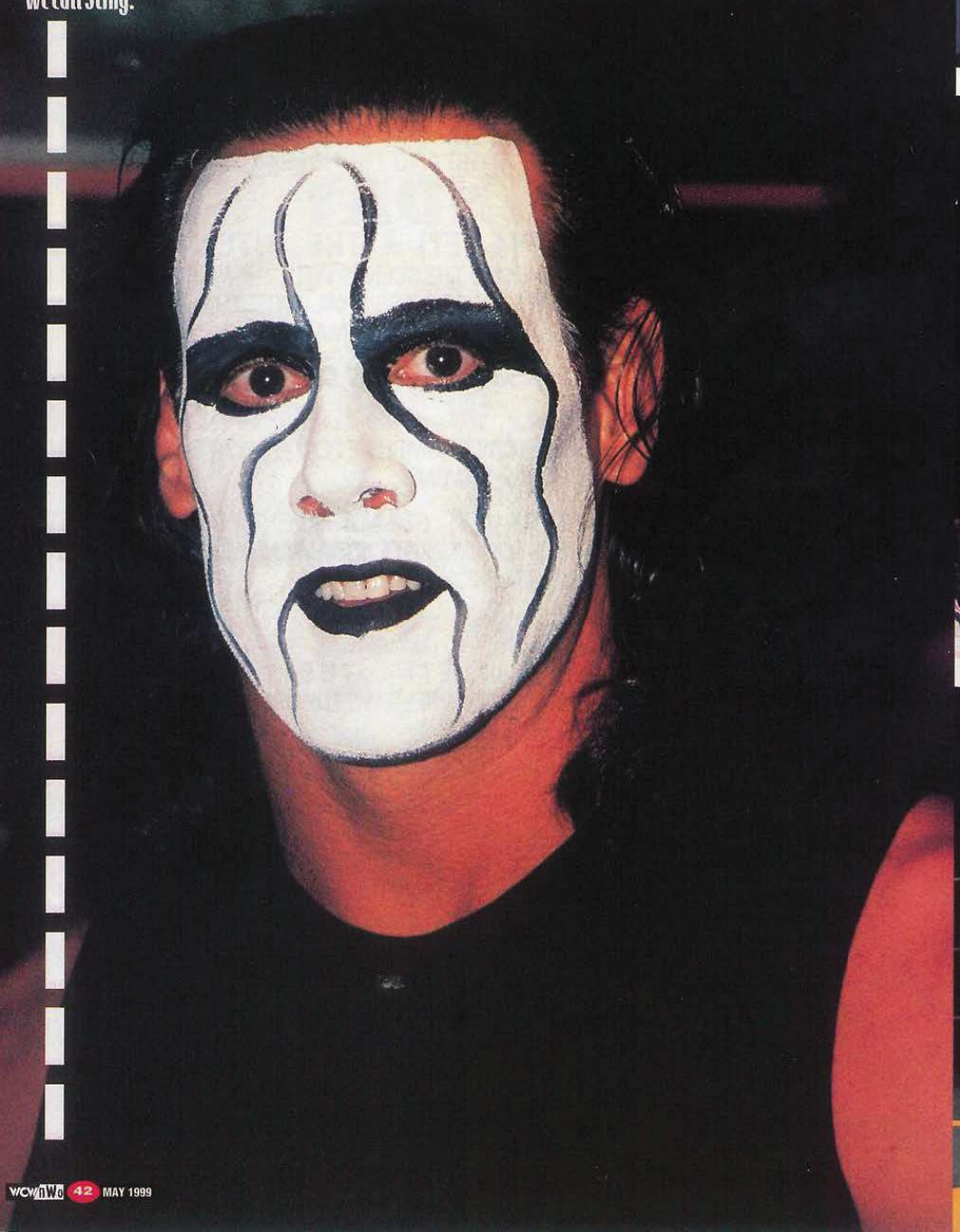
Since WCW Magazine was re-launched more than four years ago, the Sting we wrote about – and obviously the Sting you read about – was Sting the Wrestler. Nothing more. Nothing less. No personal life. No hobbies. Nothing of the sort. Just a wrestler known as Sting.

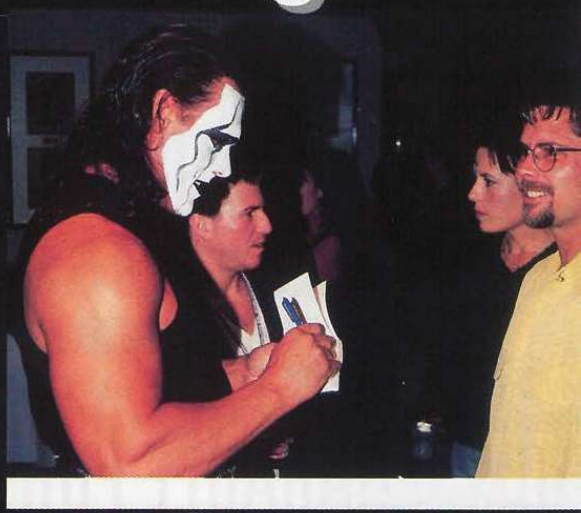
So you can imagine our surprise when, during a lengthy, sit-down interview with Sting earlier this year, he said, "My wife and my two sons are the most important things in my life. Nothing else matters, including wrestling. And please print that."

Yes, folks, Sting has changed.

We're not talking about hair color, alliances, or friendships. We're talking about Steve Borden, the man behind Sting. He has changed dramatically.

We hope you enjoy this exclusive, in-depth interview with the man known as Steve Borden, the wrestler we call Sting.





Years ago, when Sting was simply a superstar wannabe, he trained for a career in pro wrestling in California with Warrior. Together, they were known as The Blade Runners, and they made their way East, looking for that all-important break. They stopped in Nashville for a few months, then went down to the Louisiana Territory. Along the way, they stopped one evening at The Omni in Atlanta to watch established wrestling stars like the Road Warriors and the Four Horsemen.

We were like marks ... we wanted to know what the big boys were all about, Sting recalls of that sold-out show.

Months earlier, while still training in Southern California, Sting visited the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Again, another sold-out show. And more stars, specifically, Hulk Hogan.

I saw the potential; I knew wrestling could be big. But it s now much bigger than I ever imagined, even bigger than in those days, Sting said.

As the new millennium rapidly approaches, Sting is as much a part of wrestling s success as anyone. He shined for years as WCW s marquee good guy, thus earning his nickname, The Franchise. Even when he turned mysterious, dropping the short, blond hair and neon-colored face paint for a black and white image; he was as popular as ever. Quite simply, Sting was over. Then, now, forever.

But the glare of the spotlight blinded him. Not in the ring or with the fans with his family.

All the years pounding the pavement took its toll on me mentally, physically, spiritually ... in every way possible. It took its toll on my family, Sting said. I had a real big eye opener last year; that s when it was time for me to stop and smell the roses.

I think a lot of people in my position go through those hard times, where you ve got to stop and smell the roses. And I did.

Sting s life changed dramatically last September. Sting became a born-again Christian.

I m walking a different walk now and I m trying to figure out how to integrate that walk into wrestling without becoming Father Sting because that s the last thing I want to do. But at the same time, I want to give a good message to the fans, especially the kids, he said. I now want to think about each and every move I make, knowing that I m not just a husband and a father, but I m also a personality on TV. The fans watch me; they identify with me; they take examples from me, as they do from all the wrestlers. That s why I now want to

really think clearly about everything I do, especially on TV. I want to make sure I say and do the right things, so parents are able to say, Yeah, I don t mind if my kids watch Sting on TV.

Some of the raunch that airs on our competitor s show, I wouldn t let my kids watch and I can t imagine any parent letting their kids watch it. That s crap; that s exactly what it is.

Sting today is clear-headed. He s focused mentally and in better physical condition than at any point in his pro career.

And he plans to stay that way.

It was very tough to walk into the dressing room and say, Hey guys, guess what, I m different now, because I knew there was a good chance that I might lose some friends. But that hasn t happened. The guys have all been great. For the most part, the guys are good guys, Sting said. How will (my new personal thinking) affect my wrestling? I don t know. I still want to be able to deliver for the fans; that s my thing. But I m trying to figure out how. I know I ll figure out a way, eventually. There s always been something that the fans have been able to connect with, them with me and me with them.

My life is more reserved now, but wrestling is always, has always been, and always will be high-octane.

Sting must find a balance, where personal and professional can mesh into one happy family.

Sting had limited matches in the winter of 99, by his choice. He had moved from Atlanta to Southern California. He appeared at a few house shows and signed autographs at some first-day ticket sales.

Sting kept a low profile by choice.

Sting stayed with his family by choice.

I m a different guy, and a different person. I hid (my family and non-wrestling life) for so many years for a lot of different reasons. Probably most of them were not good reasons. But the fans now want to see

Photos courtesy of Pro Wrestling Illustrated

more straight-up wrestlers; they want to hear something that s more straight-up. They don t want to be insulted, so I don t want to insult anyone anymore. Why lie about it? People can t understand, unless they are in the position that we are in (as public figures) that there are people out there who are weirdos. I ve got kids and I want to protect them.

So what s ahead for Sting?

Somehow I want to find a way to rise above it all, keep my head above water and keep the fans interest; and maintain a level that I always have, he said. I don t know if I can survive in this business unless I m at a certain level or status. After all the years of hard work, I can t imagine not being a main-event wrestler.

THE MANY FACES OF STING

The buzz cut, blond-haired Sting with fluorescent face paint is gone. Long gone. He exists only in the record books as a World Champion. Today there is no more chest pounding. No more crazy catcalls. There are fans now, who don't even know that Sting. But he was great, that's for sure.

I think about [the original Sting] all the time, he said. I know there are fans who want the blond-haired Sting to come back, but I think wrestling has changed. The demographics ... the amount of people ... the kind of people who watch wrestling now, compared to who was watching when we first started Nitro when that old Sting was still around.

Next: Mr. Doom and Gloom, the black and white Sting, who looked down on us, like Big Brother, from the ceiling.

The black and white Sting was best known for his rafter exploits. He tormented Hollywood Hogan from high above, often descending upon the scene in the nick of time, always in the most dramatic fashion. His wildly popular, yet somber character first appeared in Chicago's United Center, a few years ago, when Sting first repelled some 217 feet into the ring to the amazement of the sold-out crowd. And, to the excitement of the millions watching Monday Nitro Live on TNT.

It scared the heck out of me, Sting said of that first fall, and each subsequent one did, too.

Sting didn't stop there. He moved on to more amazing feats, such as The Wheel of Life, where he started at the upper corner of the arena, then descended horizontally into the ring.

Then came The Helicopter, in Panama City, truly one of the most amazing feats ever on live TV.

You see these things in the movies and don't think twice about them ... because it is the movies. But when you actually do it, you have a newfound respect for all those stuntmen out there, Sting said.

Hovering above all those high-rise hotels in Panama City ... and to think that a few moments later I'd be hovering above the ring with all those people there, then I'd be coming down out of a helicopter, that was wild.

If I had to do it all over again, yeah, I'd do it all again.

Sting would either repel himself downward or free fall at 33 feet per second.

Who came up with the rafters-to-the-ring gimmick?

Sting.

I wanted to do it, so I spoke to the powers-that-be at WCW and they gave the OK to do it, he said.

Before he left the scene in 1998, the Red & Black Wolfpac Sting had emerged.

All of [the looks] have been a lot of fun. The black and white one was probably was favorite, he said.

HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

The Sting-Hogan battle was the most anticipated match in years. The buildup was months in the making, climaxing on December 28th, 1997, at Starrcade, in Washington, D.C. Michael Buffer finally introduced Sting, back after 15 months out of the ring from active wrestling competition. Sting was back in the ring, wrestling in a dream match, against Hollywood Hogan for the World Heavyweight title.

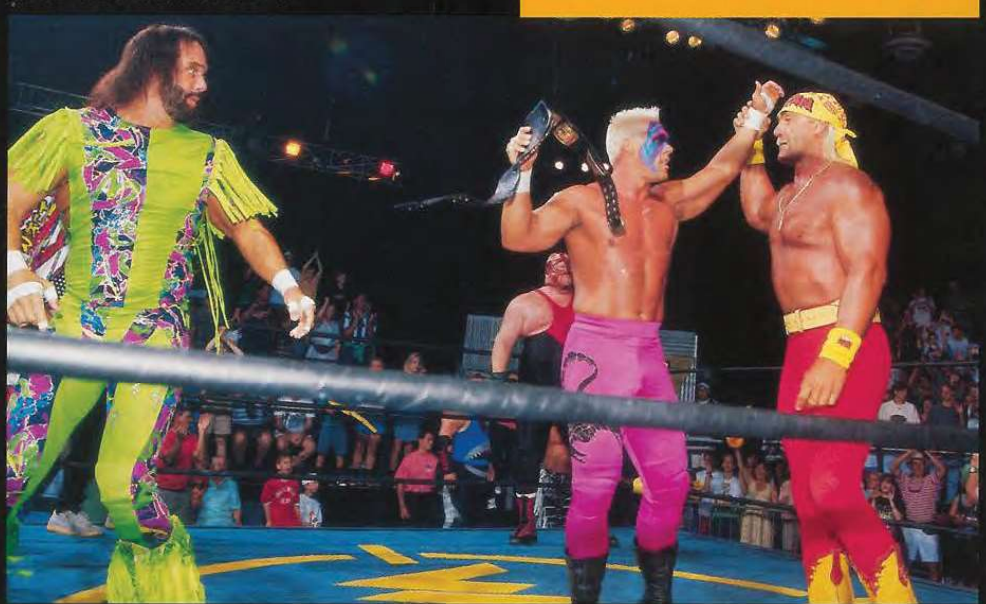
Sting triumphed that night, but his reign was short-lived. He was ordered to surrender the title about two weeks later due to the controversial endings of the Starrcade match and the subsequent rematch. He reclaimed wrestling s top prize at February s SuperBrawl Pay-Per-View, but dropped the title in mid-April to Randy Savage. He has yet to reclaim the World Heavyweight Championship.

Sting said he is proud of that Starrcade match against Hogan. To be able to say I had World Heavyweight Championship matches against Hollywood Hogan, with one of the best build-ups I can ever remember in pro wrestling, I m proud. I m proud of the interest that the fans showed in me and the matches. As far as (Pay-Per-View) buy-rate and revenue generated, it broke a lot of records. I don t know if those records still stand, but it was big.

I ll never forget that time.

What about the title?

I came a long way to finally meet Hogan for the World title, Sting said. As far as the fans are concerned, I don t think I delivered the way they wanted me to deliver. So, the next time around, when I get another (shot) at Hogan, or anyone else for the World title, I will deliver.



THE LATE 1980s

Before he got into wrestling, Steve was a bartender, a bouncer, and co-owner of a health club. He was also an aspiring actor. In fact, he auditioned for the role of Ogre in *Revenge of the Nerds*. Steve had three callbacks for the role, despite no previous acting classes or even any on-camera experience.

And what if he had gotten that classic role?

Who knows, maybe I would be in Hollywood full-time and never have been a wrestler, he said.

Instead, he and Warrior enrolled in wrestling camp.

Wrestling then was different. Much different. It s 10 years ago on the calendar ... light-years on the wrestling time line.

When Sting debuted, there were still plenty of old school wrestling shows, in smoke-filled gymnasiums, in front of 300 people. Wrestling was still somewhat regional.

Today, wrestling is the best sports entertainment on TV ... just look at the weekly ratings.

It s a totally different ballgame now, he said.

Despite his wrestling success, or maybe because of it, Sting has returned to acting. He will appear in *Shutterspeed*, a two-hour pilot scheduled to be filmed in the spring for TNT. Hopefully it will develop into a series, Sting said.

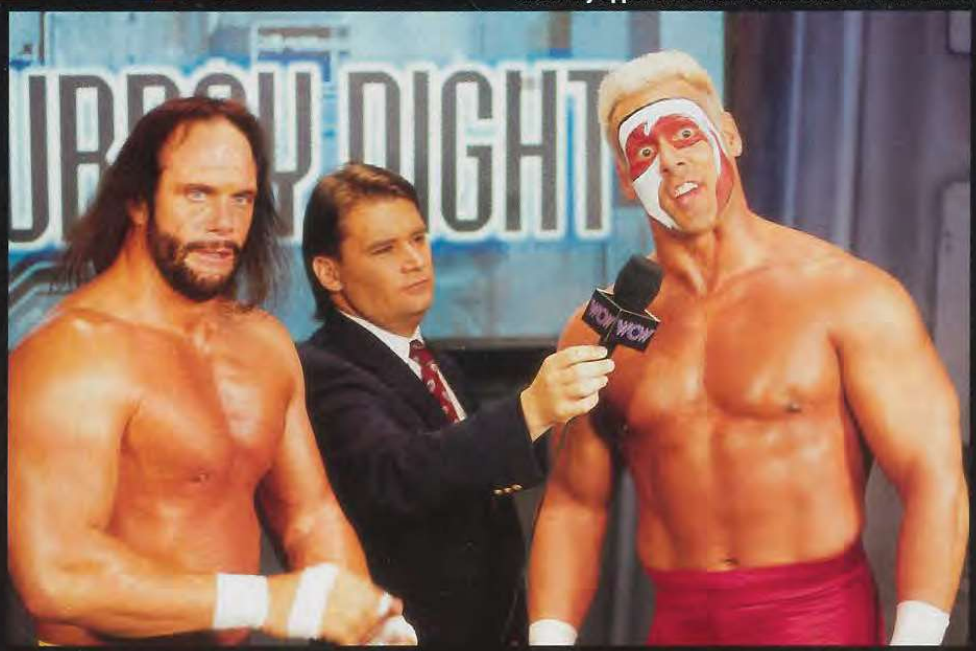
About two years ago, Sting appeared in *The Real Reason*, a low-budget independent film, produced in Atlanta. It wasn t a typical action thriller, but rather surprise, surprise a romantic comedy.

Some people saw it, a select few, Sting said, laughing. I did it because I wanted to get the experience. I wanted to do something that wasn t action, something that the fans didn t anticipate from me. I wanted to surprise everyone. Unfortunately, I only surprised, oh, about 10 people. The movie never did anything; it never went to video or the theaters.

It was a start, though, and there are parts of it that I m proud of, and everyone has such roles. Hopefully someday it ll be one of those clips that is shown to draw laughs when I m more established in the Hollywood scene.

Steve took acting classes in Atlanta two years ago and they were tougher than any opponent Sting has ever faced.

It was the scariest thing I ever did. Probably right up there with falling out of a helicopter, he said. I can grab the microphone and cut a promo about my opponent or talk to the fans or even talk to the whole country without any problem. But in acting class, you re there with 20 or 30 people, and it s a real intimate atmosphere, a real up-close-and-personal atmosphere. You study these scenes, then do them in front of the entire class. Talk about being able to hear a pin drop; its not yelling and screaming at an opponent, like in wrestling.



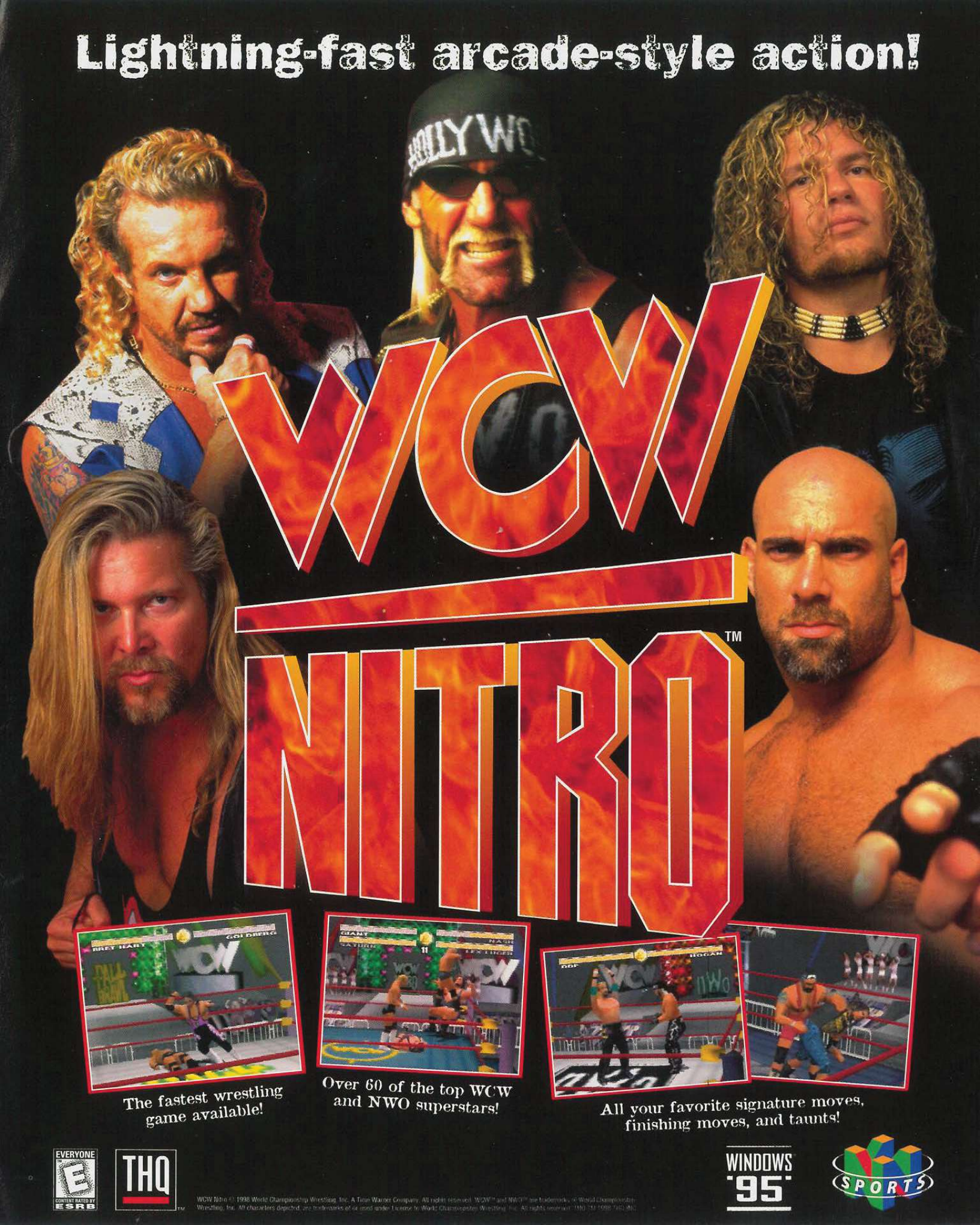
The first time I had to do a scene in front of the whole class, I froze. I told the instructor that I couldn t do it, that I wasn t ready for it, that I was petrified. But eventually it turned into a wrestling thing because the students got behind me. Before long, the entire class was chanting, Steve, Steve, Steve.

Ultimately, he conquered his fears and perfected the scene.

Sting appeared on four episodes of *Thunder in Paradise* and once starred in a Burger King commercial years ago with an English accent. I like to do accents. I like to imitate people. I like to do different characters.

So what s ahead Hollywood-wise for Steve the Actor?

Comedy.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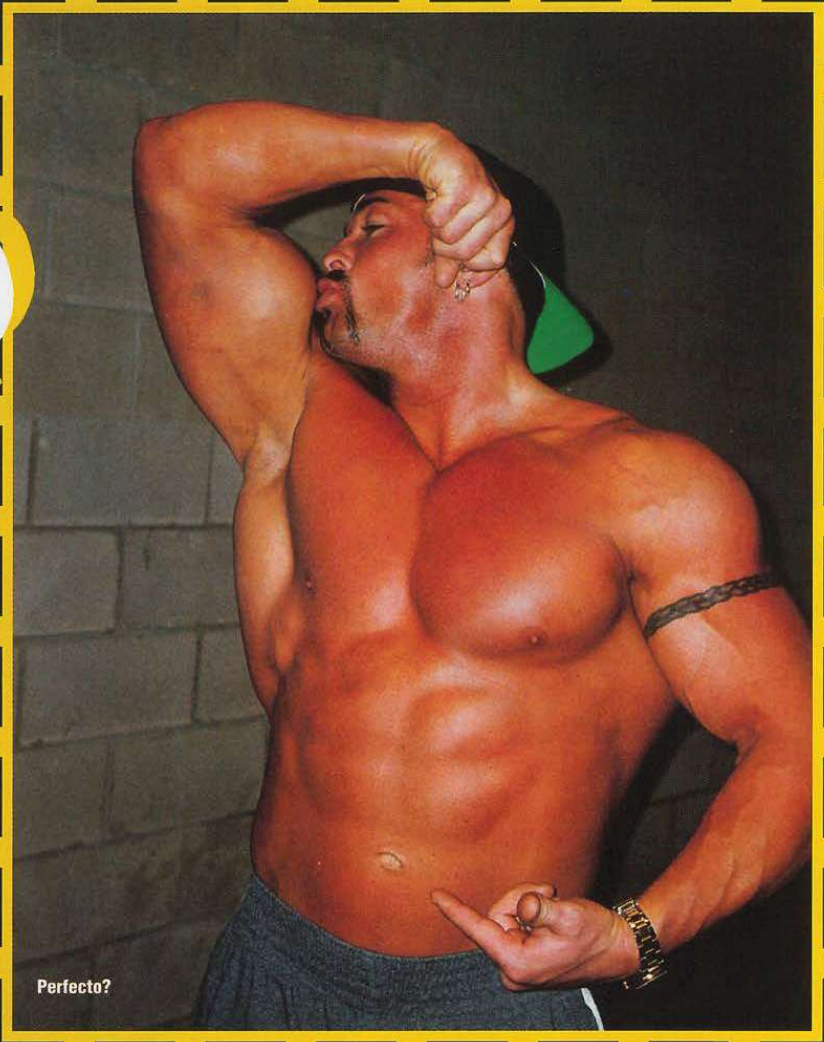
on the fringe



Perfecto?

by Patty Therre

(Send all correspondence to ON THE FRINGE, WCW Magazine, PO Box 44, North Syracuse, NY 13212 or e-mail WCWnWoEdit@aol.com)

Fashion advisor needed: ASAP!

He's coming! Perfecto is being constructed as you read this and, boy, was the voting close! I guess Buff really is the stuff because he placed either in the top position or a very close second in many of the categories. The battle of the chest and eyes was so close that the winners edged out their opponents by just a few votes. Scott Hall and Buff Bagwell battled it out vote for vote for "Best Chest" while Wrath, Buff, Bret Hart, Chris Jericho, and Sting all garnered a ton of votes for their "windows to the souls." (That would be eyes!). I'm not going to ruin the fun by telling you who finally won, but not to worry ... the best of the best will be on these pages next month for your viewing pleasure.

It's been a wild month in WCW. Have you taken a look at Saturn? I think we've created a monster!! I am trying to get into his "new look" but frankly, I just don't get it. In an article in this issue he talks a lot about what it is like to be a man in Marilyn Manson's clothing, BUT I have it on good authority that Saturn is not nearly as humiliated by having to wear a dress as he appears. He's INTO it! And all along, I thought Jericho would be the one who would end up with the goth clothes and makeup. Saturn makes Chris Jericho look like a dapper young man.

Then again, we now have Ernest Miller, complete with fur hat, dancing to James Brown music. Did WCW get a new (very demented) fashion consultant? If not, maybe I should apply for that position. I know what girls like, I know what girls want ... and I really don't think men in dresses and fur hats is it.

HOT NEW PROSPECT OF THE MONTH: Jerry Flynn! It broke my achy breaky heart to see Sonny Onoo chop off his pony tail. I saw a definite resemblance to country singer Billy Ray Cyrus when I looked at Flynn. Still, he has "hot prospect" written all over him! Go Jerry, Go Jerry!

By the way, Chad, you surely revealed a different side of you than I have seen before on HBO. If your behind-the-scenes wrestling career ever falls through, you always have a place in "other" entertainment.

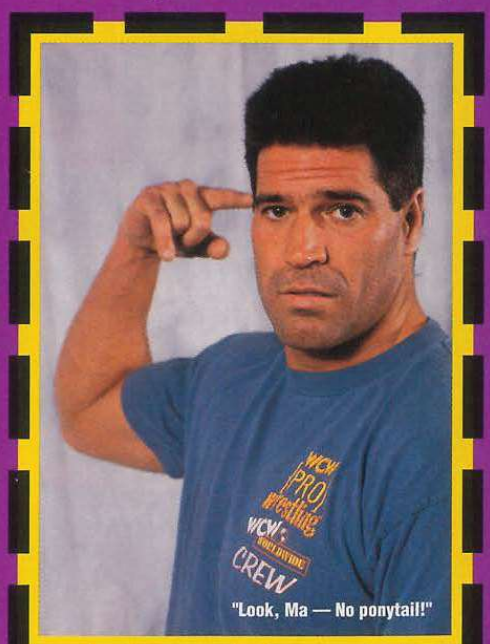
STING'S BACK! Did you catch him on QVC on March 23rd? I thought it was the best two hours of TV I have seen, Nitro and Thunder aside. I told you we had the power to do anything if we all put our collective minds to it! Welcome back, Stinger!

I'm wondering if I should be commending Samantha for having such power over a man as to make him turn against his own father, or if I should be condemning her for making women seem like manipulative, untrustworthy people. I have yet to decide how I feel about her relationship with David Flair, but one thing is for sure, this modern day Eve is persuading more than a few male fans to "stay tuned" to Nitro and Thunder!

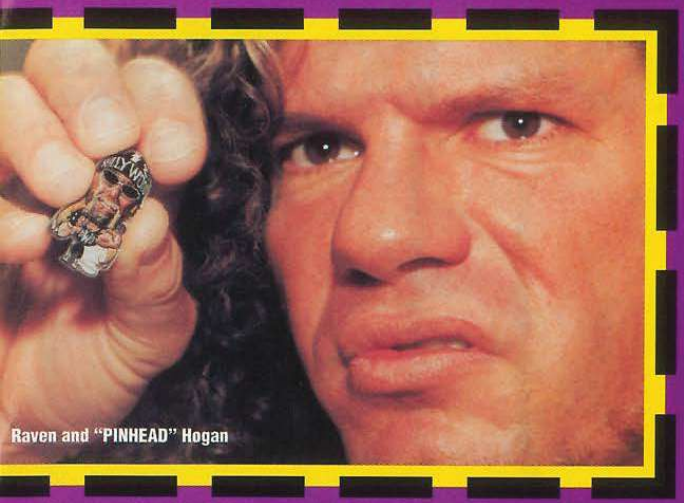
A while back, I asked you for your stories about meeting the wrestlers. I got quite a few responses and here is one I want to share with you from Brandi Richardson via e-mail: "I was at a Thunder in Winston-Salem on March 4th. During the Kidman/Chavo Guerrero, Jr. match, I was cheering for Kidman the entire time because he is my favorite wrestler EVER. He is just so talented, sweet, and gorgeous! After the match, he was leaving the ring when he heard me cheering for him. He came all the way back and bypassed everyone else and HUGGED me! I had never felt so special in all my life. I talk about Kidman all of the time — I have to be his truest fan in the world — and for him to do that in front of all those fans made my day ... no, my month ... no, my LIFE! I told everyone at school and am still talking about it."

Wrestlers take note: One small gesture can earn you a fan for life!

Quite a story, huh? We all should be so lucky to



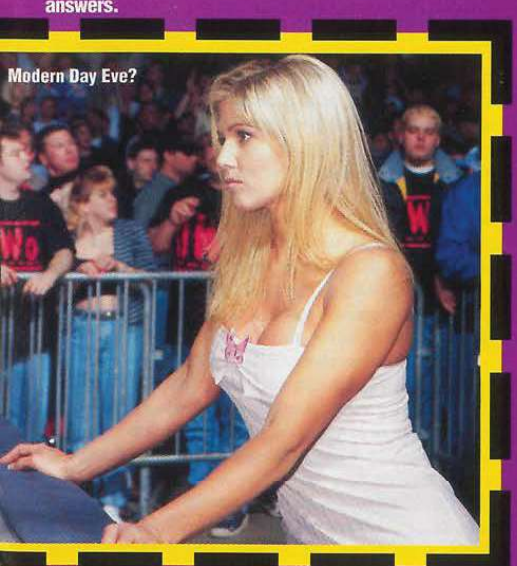
"Look, Ma — No ponytail!"


Raven and "PINHEAD" Hogan

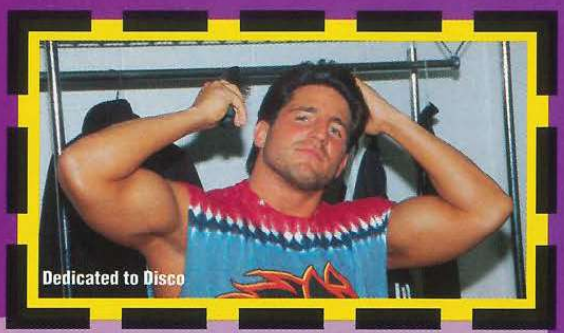
have our heart's desire come true! In the next few issues, I will print some other wrestler/fan stories. I have received some really amazing letters, some of which I can't print (making them even more fun for me to read!).

On to private shout outs! Alexis L. of AL, the wrestler in question is VERY married; Kelly F. of Alabama, send the letter to me at the magazine. It will reach the person you want it to go to. Jeanette H. of Indiana, Billy has your letter; Melissa B., "Ab Man" is married, with kids; Holly D. of Maryland, I passed on your letter to the Flockster; Malissa T. of Florida, the wrestler you asked about is very much one of the "unapproachables;" Kathy B. of Pennsylvania, after much research, your wrestler's favorite beverage is, get this, "natural spring water." It won't cost you much to buy him a drink when he is in town! And lastly, Ariel, Dahiana, and Madeline G. of New York, I loved your creative "Perfecto" votes! I sent you all exclusive WCW/nWo pins for your effort.

This column cannot continue without a huge shout out to the one, the only ... Disco Inferno! Not only did he make good on his promise to answer my questions; he actually started a trend! I now have in my possession the answers to some very personal questions from guys like Chris Jericho, Norman Smiley, Buff Bagwell, Scotty Riggs, Billy Kidman, and Raven. So, to kick off the "Personal Questions That I Can't Believe These Guys Answered" section, I am giving you two totally different guys' answers: Disco Inferno and Raven. Next month, along with Perfecto, you will get Kidman and Jericho's answers.


Modern Day Eve?

Before I give you the interviews, I have to tell you about some new products. PINHEADS! These are pins of your favorite wrestlers (like the one Raven is holding in the photo). They also have some really different looking key chains, necklaces, earrings (I happen to be wearing Goldberg earrings today — how posh!), and more, with the likenesses of guys like Raven, Bret Hart, Hollywood Hogan, K-Dogg, Goldberg, DDP, Sting, Scott Steiner, and Kevin Nash. I think these little things are really cute and the price is very reasonable. You can get them at retail stores all over (for more info, call their toll-free number: 1-877-9-PINHEAD or visit their web site at www.PINHEADS.com), and you can also WIN some by entering my latest contest! I want a poem! Yep, a poem about your favorite wrestler and why he is your #1. Length doesn't matter, take as little or as many lines as you need to express your feelings. Send in your entries, along with your name and address to me at the magazine address above or e-mail me at WCWnWoEdit@aol.com. Please remember to put "Wrestler Poem" as the subject on the e-mail or letter. The deadline for all entries is May 20th. I will read every one of them and pick a winner, who will receive an assortment of PINHEAD merchandise, including a key chain, earrings, a couple of pins, and a necklace of various wrestlers. So get ready to write some prose!


Dedicated to Disco

And now, the answers to the most riveting questions in wrestling history ... a compilation of questions sent in by you, the readers, and given to the wrestlers, who, surprisingly enough, answered eagerly. I gave each wrestler the same questions so you can compare and contrast their personalities and styles. I quickly want to mention that these answers came directly from the mouths of the wrestlers in question, so if they say something offensive, blame them!

Q 1. When did you start wrestling professionally?
DI 1. "Eight years ago in a local organization in Alpharetta, GA."
R 1. "About 10 years ago."

Q 2. What is your goal in WCW?
DI 2. "To be the best wrestler in the world one day. But that should be everybody's goal."
R 2. "To drop-toe hold as many people in a chair as I possibly can."

Q 3. Who was your toughest opponent ever?
DI 3. "My toughest opponent was Scott Hall."
R 3. "Handsome Stranger."

Q 4. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
DI 4. "I would like to live in Tampa."
R 4. "Well, being that I have, like, 12 houses, I live everywhere I want anyhow. So it's really a rather redundant question."

Q 5. Are you married or "attached?" (If so, then the questions below are hypothetical.)
DI 5. "I'm single, but I have many girlfriends."
R 5. "Well, my head's attached to my body, my arms are attached to my chest, and my legs are attached to my pelvis, or however the neckbone-connected-to-the-hipbone song goes. And, as far as being married, absolutely not. I'm terminally single."

Q 6. If you were going to be fixed up on a blind date, who is the one person you would trust to pick the date?
DI 6. "Saturn."
R 6. "Well, I wouldn't want to go out with a blind person anyway, so I think that's rather irrelevant."

Q 7. What would you look for in a woman to date?
DI 7. "A girl who is intelligent, funny, sarcastic, witty, and good looking."
R 7. "Nose ring, tattoos, and hair under her arms."

Q 8. What is the one quality in a woman that TOTALLY turns you off?
DI 8. "Stupidity."
R 8. "Speech."

Q 9. Would you rather date a woman who was beautiful on the outside, but had a horrid personality, or be with one who was average looking with a great sense of humor and personality?
DI 9. "I would rather date one that had a great sense of humor but was average looking, but not too average."
R 9. "I'd take the beautiful one. I could always send her to school and learn her a little bit there."

Q 10. What do you think is your best quality?
DI 10. "My best quality is my wit and my humor."
R 10. "My charm."

Q 11. What do you think is your worst quality?
DI 11. "My worst quality: Stubbornness."
R 11. "My charm."

Q 12. Boxers or briefs? Feel free to give details.
DI 12. "I wear Calvin Klein briefs or Jockey bikini briefs."
R 12. "Briefs. My boys have gotta have a home."

Q 13. Add any comment you want about any subject you want.
DI 13. "I think that the Disco Inferno should be recognized as an icon in not only the wrestling business, but in the entertainment industry."
R 13. No comment given.

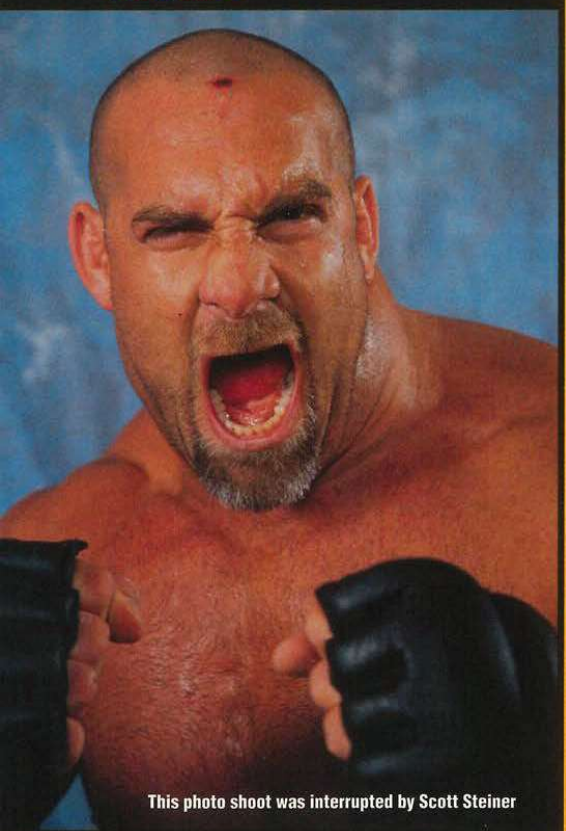
You asked for it, you got it!

Next month, I will reveal that Kidman is not as innocent as he looks and Jericho has a very unconventional way of saving money when he shops for clothes.

Until then, remember: *Tomorrow belongs to those who have vision today.*
Patty

The Road Back to the GOLD

Last month (issue 49) we chronicled four days in the life of superstar Bill Goldberg as he traveled from wrestling matches to movie sets to personal appearances. Following Goldberg on *The Road Back to the Gold* is no easy task. This is a whirlwind of a man who needs no downtime and is very close to being able to be in two places at once! We left off with Goldberg's work on the set of *Universal Soldier II*, the soon-to-be-released movie in which he co-stars with Jean-Claude Van Damme.



This photo shoot was interrupted by Scott Steiner

Goldberg finished his work on the movie but took no time to relax. "The last time I had any time off, apart from injuries, was when I went to Jamaica in September ('98)," he said.

The movie took quite a bit out of him, though, and he readily admits that wrestling and movie making are a tough combination. Even HE felt the burn that the two grueling careers can have on a person.

"They (the producers of *Universal Soldier II*) asked me to come back to do a few extra scenes, but after some discussion, we felt my part was best left the way it was. I didn't want to overexpose the character in this movie. The last thing that I wanted to do was jeopardize my persona in any way, because wrestling is my career," he explained. "Everything I do outside the ring is an opportunity of mine, solely dependent upon my ability to excel in the wrestling world."

Wrestling, clearly, is Goldberg's love. Everything else is just a hobby for this former footballer.

WHO'S NEXT!

In light of the new feuds that he has been embroiled in, have Goldberg's goals changed?

"My goal is definitely to take care of the guys in the nWo, but along the road, there have come a few distractions: Bam Bam Bigelow, Ric Flair, and Bret Hart, to name a few," Goldberg said.

What about Scott Steiner, who had been taunting the former champ for several weeks? The situation erupted when Steiner interrupted a photo shoot with WCW Magazine editor Colin Bowman during the Monday Nitro in Sacramento.

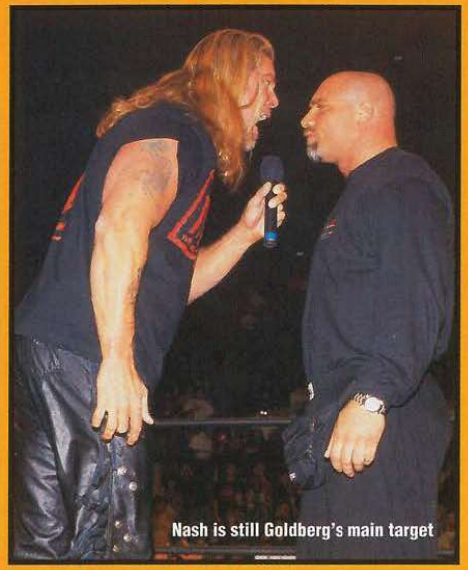
Colin had never seen Bill that livid, but to Bill's credit, he kept his composure and acted like the gentleman he is. Anyone else would have torn Steiner apart and, in the process, destroyed thousands of dollars worth of (our) equipment. The fact that he politely asked to be excused from the rest of the shoot and then made his point inside the ring speaks volumes about Bill Goldberg.

"Steiner definitely, DEFINITELY brought himself to my attention. And the matter is far from over. Steiner and the rest of the nWo are going to be paid back in full and with interest. I've already taken care of Scott Hall, but to be honest with you, he still deserves the biggest @$$-kicking I can give anybody."

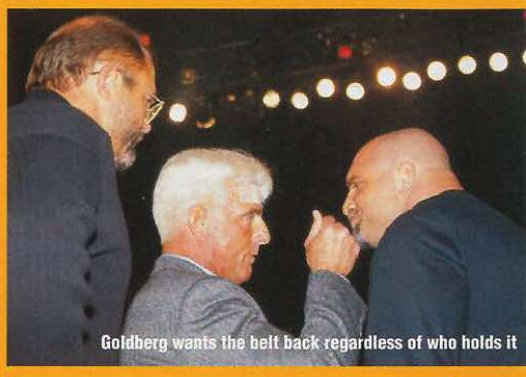
And what about Kevin Nash, who took the Heavyweight gold from Goldberg with lots of outside help at Starrcade '98?

"I can't wait to get to him," Goldberg said. "I don't know if I want to destroy Scott Hall worse than I want to destroy Nash, or the other way around. I know for a fact that Kevin Nash can't beat me. I know that there's nobody in wrestling that can beat me, only because I have the confidence to not let myself down again.

"The only reason that I lost (the belt) was Scott Hall. Therefore, he's my number one target. Put it this way, I won't be totally satisfied until I knock him out of the business. My feud with Scott Hall will never be over."



Nash is still Goldberg's main target



Goldberg wants the belt back regardless of who holds it

KINDRED SPIRIT

Rick Steiner is one wrestler who has always been on the side of tradition and, seemingly, has a bond with Goldberg.

Goldberg agrees that he and Rick Steiner are cut from the same cloth. "The history between the two of us is that we both have a lot of the same ideals. We have the same philosophies; we have the same wants and goals. I think we try to go about them in kind of the same way," he said of Rick Steiner, who has steadfastly fought against the bad guys, just as Goldberg has done since he entered World Championship Wrestling.

Goldberg added, "Rick's a very hard-working guy and he's one tough cookie. He's an old school guy. He's been abandoned and he's been abused by his brother and the nWo. Like I've said from time to time, although I don't call myself the new sheriff in town, when there's something that goes on that I don't really care for, I don't overstep my bounds, but I try to take care of the situation if I can do something about it."

FLAIR AND GOLDBERG: FAMILY?

Goldberg and the "Nature Boy" Ric Flair have had their battles. Goldberg wants his title shot and Flair is the man who can give that to him, both as a corporate ruling and as the champ himself. At press time, Flair and Goldberg were involved in an uneasy alliance. They were forced to tag together against Hollywood Hogan and Kevin Nash, who feel that they deserve a shot at the gold. It was not a smooth-running match as Goldberg pressed Flair high above his head and slammed him to the mat – and they were on the same side! It looks very much like Flair and Goldberg are NOT seeing eye to eye on anything these days.

Interestingly enough, we found out that Flair and Bill's brother actually roomed together in college. Does this pose any loyalty problems for Goldberg?

"I think I pretty much explained how I felt about Ric in the ring. It's true that Ric and my brother roomed in college. There's a long-standing respect issue between Ric and I, because I look at him like a brother. Not because we're so close, but because of his relationship with my brother. I look at him in a different light; not only is he Ric Flair, the 14-time World Champion, he also has a personal relationship with my family. So, to see what he's done, and to see what he's been doing as of late is quite disheartening. I think the guy's losing his mind," said Goldberg.

Does knowing Flair on such a personal basis make it difficult to step in the ring with him and give it all he has?

"Absolutely not, my feelings for Ric Flair, both personally and professionally, have totally changed since he showed such disrespect for me in that short period of time when we were in the ring together. Ric Flair, to me now, is nothing but another target. He's just like everybody else."

BRET HART: COWARD OR CUNNING?

Bret Hart has been chomping at the bit for a title shot in WCW. He has been waiting for a big match to come his way. He called out Goldberg and, in Toronto, Canada, Hart's home country, Goldberg answered the call. On the March 29th Nitro, Hart challenged Goldberg to enter the ring and when Goldberg speared him, Hart revealed that he was wearing a metal plate under his jersey. One that knocked the 291-pound footballer out cold. Hart made a fast three-count and declared himself the victor. Somehow, we felt this scenario did not sit well with Goldberg. Surprisingly, he is philosophical about his confrontation with Hart.

"Bret Hart is Bret Hart," he said. "He is a guy who's made a reputation for himself, whether positive or negative. He has earned respect throughout his years in wrestling and, you've got to admit, the guy has accomplished just about everything he can. But now, you can throw all that garbage out the window. Like I said, when Ric (Flair) made the challenge to me, I threw friendship out the window. When anybody disrespects me, I'm damn well gonna show them why they shouldn't."

RACING TO THE RACES

Moving away from wrestling for a moment, Bill undertook an autograph signing stint at the Daytona 500. Thousands of fans showed up to see WCW's hero and to get his signature.

"It was a glorious occasion," Goldberg said. "I was very honored to be able to go there and represent WCW.

"I was also the Grand Marshal of the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store 500 in Atlanta in March. I was there waving the flag and saying, 'Gentlemen, start your engines!'" he laughed.

So on top of everything else, is Goldberg a NASCAR fan?

"I'm a fan of the entire sport. Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of time to follow anybody. I'm a Bill Elliott fan because he lives near me. I'm a Dale Earnhardt fan because he's aggressive as hell. You know (Jeff) Gordon's the man. But, my allegiance has to go to Elliott because he's my neighbor and I like what he stands for. He's a good people person; he's a crowd favorite."

How did it feel to stand inside the winner's circle at the Daytona 500?

"That was an unbelievable experience that will never be rivaled because it was the first time I had been in there, and the first time you do a lot of things can't be beaten. That and being the Grand Marshal are cherished memories," said Goldberg.

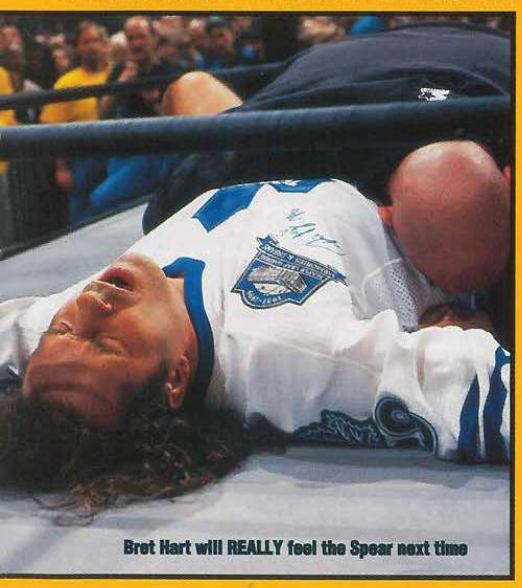
With fame comes rewards. Or does it?

"Well, I don't consider myself famous, I'm just lucky," said a humble Bill Goldberg.

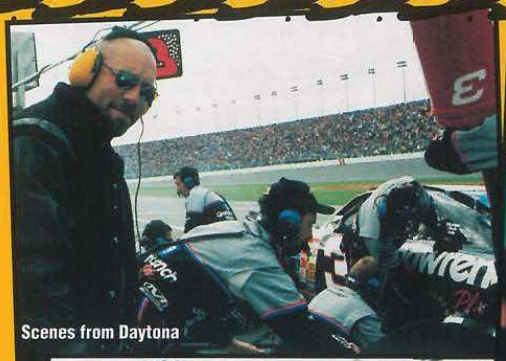
Speaking of racing, Bill did his share of it, just getting to the Daytona autograph session.

"We flew in on a helicopter an hour before the race. A van then took us through a little tunnel and we ended up on the track driving past the stands which were already full of people, about 45 minutes before the race," he said.

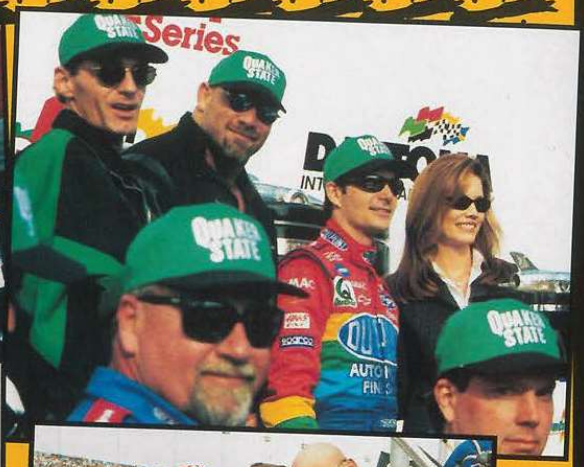
Typical Goldberg style.

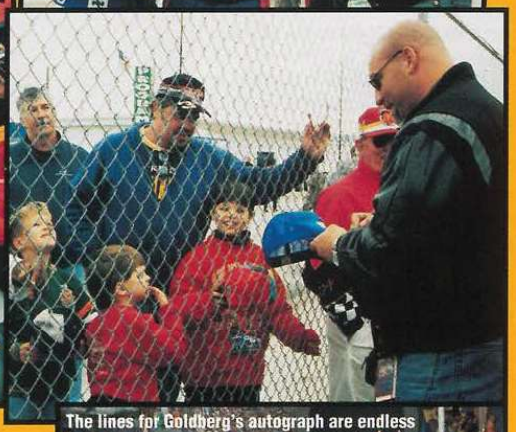


Bret Hart will REALLY feel the Spear next time



Scenes from Daytona





MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE ...

Goldberg has a hidden "talent." He sings! And anyone who witnessed his duet with Kevin Nash on *The Love Boat* knows he has a "distinctive" (diplomacy is the keyword here) style. However Goldberg has had another more recent stint behind the mic.

"Oh, man," he groaned when asked about his latest vocal exploits. "It wasn't my idea, but since they were good friends of mine, I didn't want to insult them by not going along with their little gag. It was with the band Confederate Railroad. And, no, I am not telling you another thing about that," he said.

Well, the song he sang was the band's biggest hit, "Trashy Woman."

So will Bill be singing on the main stage at Sturgis this year?

"Well if they (WCW) want me to, I'll be there, but I'm a terrible singer," he admitted.

STAMPS AND LOTTERY TICKETS

Goldberg's face is everywhere these days including on a postage stamp and the immensely popular Illinois State Lottery ticket.

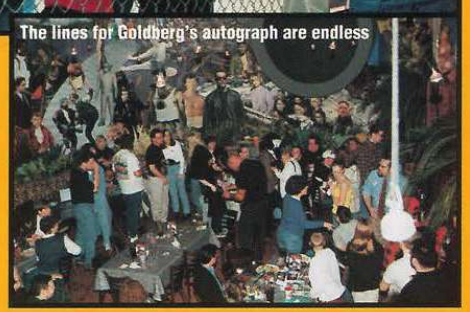
"I'm very honored to be a part of these things," he said. "To be on the postage stamp is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a person."

The Illinois Lottery ticket is one of the most popular and successful scratch offs in Illinois Lottery history. Goldberg takes pride in that fact. "I'm very happy. I'm very lucky that they're doing well because that reflects well on me."

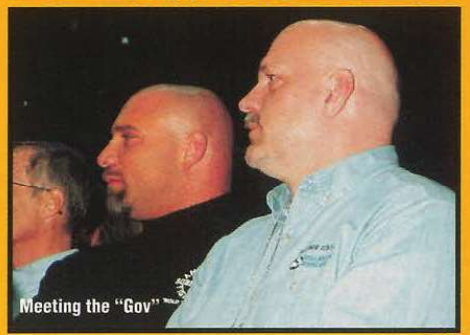
GOLDBERG MEETS "THE BODY"

Recently, Goldberg was seen in the company of ex-wrestler, now-Minnesota State Governor Jesse Ventura at a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball game. He says it was an eye-opening experience.

"I had only briefly met Jesse before but never really spoken to him at length. It was quite strange because, it was kind of like looking in the mirror. It was like listening to myself talk a little bit. Granted, I only spent about 45 minutes with him, but it



The lines for Goldberg's autograph are endless



Meeting the "Gov"

Scenes from The Tonight Show

was scary how alike we are in conflicts every week with cartoon crimes," Goldberg said about the famed WCW announcer.

THE TONIGHT SHOW

Many of Hollywood's biggest stars fight to get an elbow work on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Goldberg was one of Jay's guests in February.

"That was my first time on The Tonight Show and I was lucky to be on with such supportive guests as Kevin Costner and Caitlin Fitzgerald," he said. "I had always wanted to meet Kevin and we had a lot of fun. Doing on the show was another opportunity to further enhance professional wrestling's reputation, by going out there and trying to portray a positive image, I hope I did that."

By every stretch of the imagination, Goldberg came off as articulate, intelligent man that he is. And judging by the letters from our fanzine readership, a promotion career as a fashion model would not be too much of stretch.

"The point I wanted to make, which to me is much more important than anything else these days, is that first and foremost I'm a human being and that wrestlers are human beings. What we do well there is a subject and many demanding form of entertainment. People need to understand that we do a lot of good things for the community. If we ever go and there and promote the positives, and show mainstream America that we're not barbarians, like a lot of them think we are, then nobody loses," he said adamantly.

THAT CHALLENGE

That night, Goldberg broke one of wrestling's taboos. He and only questioned a rival organization. He even challenged them big time. The WWF have taken many shots at Goldberg, including their downplaying gossip of late with their character "Oldberg," which, incidentally, is hardly an original concept. Came to point: Who commissioner Jim Ross's advice best gave at Pat Buchanan? Now does Goldberg respond to the confusion that he is a clone of another wrestler to another humanoid?

"Well, I don't think to it because I know it's not true," he said.

Is Mania looking to enter the ring again?

Goldberg in WCW's ring in damned after. Also time he talks football with NFL legend Jerry Rice

"It's good to show to the fans to new respect, but, like I've always told everybody, I don't do this for the fans. I don't expect their criticism to continue support, I do my own criticizing. And if I'm happy with my performances, then I couldn't care less about anybody trying to tell me that I'm anti-Establishment or I'm a rip-off of somebody else. If I knew in my heart that I'm not, then I don't even have those people. As far as the WWF's concerned, that's Goldberg out, in the document form of fantasy."

Still, the publicity that he received at the expense of his reputation grades on Goldberg like acids on a chalkboard.

Despite the fact that Goldberg's challenge to the WWF's best-selling heavyweight champion crowbar, nevermind, Goldberg said "this challenge indicates injury." And he knows that, even to now, Goldberg would cream just the other.

"So I've got to say to him in good luck. These days, people talk about matches pertaining to the 'new age' form of wrestling, but nobody on God's green Earth can possibly believe that he couldn't beat me. I know that politics will prevent this match from happening, but if there was a way to push these words just save them, I'll be ready. Anyway, at least I've seen Sean up a little bit."

THE REGIS AND KATHIE LEE SHOW

In the tornado that is Goldberg's life, he also guested on Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee.

"That was entertaining," he said of the experience, despite the fact that he wound up with a cut head during the show.

"That was a little act they wanted to put on, a little wrestling deal. I got the wrestling stuff out of the way at the beginning so that I could just be Bill Goldberg when I walked out there. We did a skit where I pretended a wall was, unfortunately, I cut my head a little bit. Kathie Lee swore to me reason with a Band-Aid, and the rest is history," he said.

"I hope she didn't notice the night of me licking my blood right in front of her, though," he added, laughing.

BEING ON THE FRONT PAGE OF USA TODAY

USA Today has featured several stories about Goldberg's fight for animal rights recently, but they also had a mid-color picture of him on the front page of their newspaper, with the story attached pertaining to the WWF and their content. Goldberg is serious.

"All I can tell you is that publicity is publicity and you tell me what professional wrestler would not be ecstatic that his picture is on the front page of USA Today in an article that isn't necessarily negative, and doesn't even talk about him? The fact that nothing bad was written about me in that article, and given the percentage of how censorship people in the world that pick up that paper and that was me on the front page, it's just a positive," he said. "They never know what good things could happen as a result of it."

HIS ONGOING ANIMAL RIGHTS ISSUES

As reported in last month's issue, Bill Goldberg is an avowed animal rights activist, where "pet peeve" is animal fighting. Talking time out of his impossibly hectic schedule to talk to Congress, write letters, and take part in charity signings at several shelters, Goldberg wants to change the laws that allow animal fighting ten apart to go on in this day and age. So far, his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Much mainstream publicity has been generated by his fight and, although the goal was not to put himself in the spotlight, Goldberg stated that he hopes helps to get people listening to what he has to say.

"I've received some letters, pictures, and some horrific headlines," he said of his ongoing battle. "There are a couple people whose thoughts I have swayed and hopefully in the days to come, we will see something even more positive come about."

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Goldberg was voted Wrestler of the Year by our readers by an overwhelming margin and also won the Match of the Year award for his bout against Diamond Dallas Page. He has the distinction of being the first wrestler who has ever won both the Wrestler of the Year and Match of the Year awards, not to

Goldberg's fans are the most loyal in all of wrestling

mention that all but one of the runners-up for Match of the Year bothered the year himself!

"It's an honor to look for to my attention. What happens occasion a there to be treated by your fans as Wrestler of the Year? That means a lot to me. It means that my hard work has paid off, and all the people that said I didn't deserve what I got and that I was given everything that I got were wrong," he said.

Goldberg does seems to have the golden touch and his wrestling workouts in any wrestling has seemed up every dream for him. He is an articulate spokesman for WCW and, although he is always on the run, he never seems to run out of steam. His philosophy in the event seems as it was when he first entered WCW. Never let the side down. He stands by that credo where autographing thousands of pictures for fans, making them feel the time satisfied, trying never to refuse an autograph or photo request, no matter what the situation.

Goldberg is, without a doubt, WCW's hottest and most in-demand wrestler today. But even as his position to appearances and appearances, he still manages to set on to on the 24s and speaker to the fans through this magazine.

Next month: Eric Bischoff back to the field continues as WCW Magazine attempts to keep up with this crossover trade called Bill Goldberg.

katz eye view

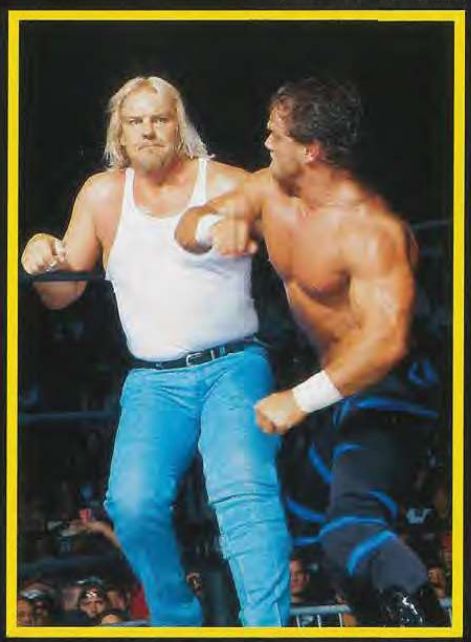
As we say on the inside of this business, I'm about to break kayfabe. I'm going to cross the promotional lines drawn between the New World Order and World Championship Wrestling. I'm going to do something I've never done before — be objective. I only hope that Kevin, Scott, and Hollywood can forgive me.

Over the several years I've spent observing this industry, I'm often asked who I think will lead the next generation of wrestling superstars. Never has that question weighed more on my mind than over the past few months. It's become painfully obvious that World Championship Wrestling needs someone to step out of the pack and emerge as the leader of wrestling's youth movement. Despite my obvious nWo alliance, I, too, feel it's important for a new star to emerge, if not for the good of WCW/nWo, then for the good of the wrestling industry.

Now most of you are already chanting "Goldberg ... Goldberg ... Goldberg," but I'm telling you to save it. Goldberg has become a mega-star already. One minute he's on network television, the next he's acting as a nonprofit spokesman. There's no need for him to step out of the pack considering he's already made it. What we need is someone unexpected. Someone who's ready to cash in on all his potential. After months, maybe years of searching for such a gladiator, I think I've found him.

Chris Benoit is that man.

Now I know what you're all saying. "Jeff, how can Chris Benoit be the man? He's a Horseman! We're nWo 4-Life!" Those are all true statements. But the fact of the matter is, this guy is awesome. Over the past few years, I've watched Chris Benoit grow into the fiercest, meanest, most awe-inspiring young contender. He's taken the teachings of Stu Hart, mixed them with the innovation of Dynamite Kid, and blended them both with several international styles in a way that can be only called flawless.



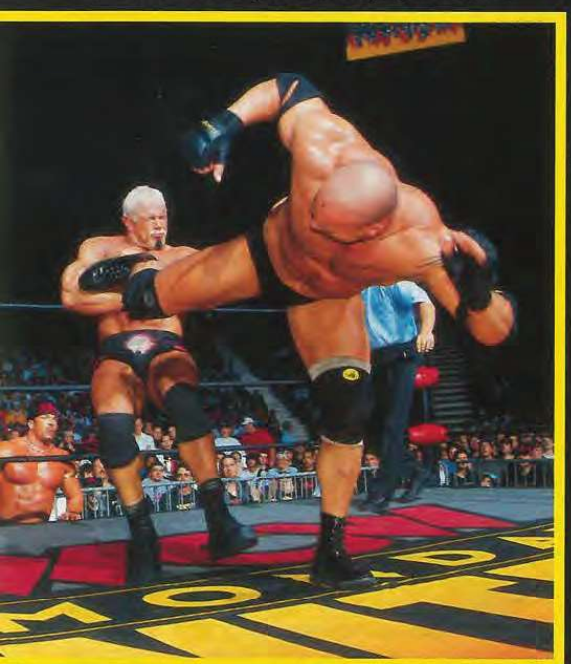
Watching him, you can tell that Benoit is at a point now in his career where he is hungrier than he's ever been. It reminds me very much of Bret Hart's career in the early 1990s. It's an obvious comparison, but one with total merit. Hart spent much of his career on the lower end of the wrestling card. After finding success in the tag team ranks, he slowly made his way up the singles ladder. He spent months looking for his big break. All it took was one match. One rivalry. Just one confrontation that brought out the very best the "Hitman" had. In the summer of 1991, Bret Hart captured his first singles title, beating Curt Hennig. The rest, as they say, is history.

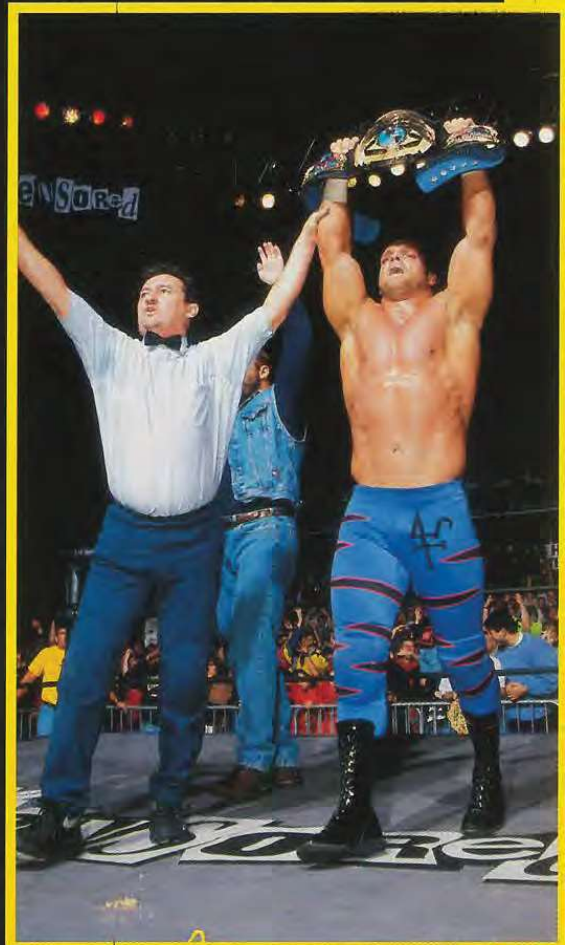
Chris Benoit is looking for that one match. All he needs is that one challenge that forces him to elevate himself. The opponent is out there, somewhere, waiting to be found. Be it a Chris Jericho or a Perry Saturn or whomever, Benoit must do whatever it takes to find that man. If that means leaving the Horsemen, so be it. This guy has got something deep inside of him that is just dying to get out. Despite what Lex Luger says, Chris Benoit may be wrestling's true "Total Package."

In our business, great heroes are defined by great villains. It's something that I think Goldberg has truly lacked up to this point. But something is beginning to emerge from the depths and it's leading me to think that we may see a great series of matches in the very near future. Provided he comes out the victor in his feud with Diamond Dallas Page, Big Poppa Pump could be the top rival that Goldberg needs. Steiner is everything that Goldberg is not. Brash, cocky, a womanizer, you name it. Goldberg, on the other hand, is wrestling's biggest softie. He worries about animals, opens the door for little old ladies and the like. He's the son of a gynecologist for heaven's sake! A far cry from Dusty Rhodes' "son of a plumber" days to be sure.

And though Goldberg has become a big star in this industry, if not the biggest, there's still something missing. The Yin to his Yang. The Darth to his Luke. The Independent Council to his White House. I think Scott Steiner is the key. He can bring a passion and intensity out of Goldberg that we have yet to see. And if these two behemoths collide, the whole world will be watching. Note to the WCW Executive Committee: MAKE THIS FEUD HAPPEN!

Don't forget to check out nWowrestling.com. Be sure to listen to the Real Audio hotline updates, delivered several times a week by myself and Chad "Deli" Damiani. It's filled with insider news and perspectives and, best of all, it's free. That's nWoWrestling.com. Check it out, won't you? Until next month, this is Katmandu signing off.





Jeff Katz

Truth OR CONSEQUENCES?

Anytime we sit down for an interview with Raven, it is the most interesting -- if not entertaining -- 30 minutes spent with any wrestler in the business. We never know what Raven's going to say ... perhaps because Raven probably doesn't know what he's going to say. Or does he? The master mind manipulator met with WCW Magazine recently and there is still no more insight into the mysterious man with shaggy hair, a bunch of tattoos, body piercings, and a hardcore attitude.

Q: Is this a new Raven we're seeing these days?

A: "No, it's an old Raven. It's just a side of Raven who I haven't shown to you. Or maybe you've been too stupid to realize it existed."

Q: So, then, tell us: Who is the old Raven?

A: "It's the character you see on TV."

Q: Yeah, but we saw you despondent and moaning ...

A: "Mental illness is a strange thing. You know I'm manic-depressive, so I swing back and forth; the term is bipolar. Maybe you need to look that up in your psychology textbook. Do some research, will ya?"

Q: You almost seem happy these days, like you're enjoying life. Is that true?

A: "Well, if you had the kind of money I've got, you'd enjoy life, too."

Q: Nowadays, you're a bit more flippant, shall we say?

A: "The demeanor you're seeing is how I normally am. On TV, I just bring out the most miserable, wretched, unseemly side I can. But, the other side is how I normally am. Actually, I go back and forth. Nobody is one particular mood all the time. I guess I just tend to always bring my s#!^^% moods to the arena."

Q: What are you like away from the arenas?

A: "Depends what kind of mood I'm in. It depends what I'm doing, where I'm at. Mental illness is a strange thing. It seems that most creative geniuses are afflicted with it ... and I am one of each, creative and a genius."

Q: Are you a modern day Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde?

A: "You could say that. You could say that. There's definitely some psychoses going on ... and that has nothing to do with the Mexican high-flyer."

Q: What's up with you and Kanyon nowadays?

A: "Kanyon is my sidekick. Every great star had a sidekick: Butch Cassidy had The Sundance Kid; Abbott had Costello; Dean Martin had Jerry Lewis; Kevin Nash has Ross Forman."

Q: What's the inside story on Kanyon's new threads?

A: "Kanyon was a bum, so I decided to take him out of the gutter with some new clothes. I figure, if he's gotta parade around my house, he at least will have to look nice."

Q: How's the family — mom, grandma, and your sister?

A: "My mom's a pain in the @$$. The only reason I tolerate her is, I haven't yet taken over her company. When I do, there won't be anything left of her to worry about. As it stands now, we rank among *Fortune Magazine's* Top 500 families in America, and she's the primary stockholder. But I will be taking over her company. Then I will own the company."

Q: What number among the Top 500?

A: "Look it up yourself. All I'll tell you is, we're in the top half."

Q: What is the family business?

A: "Import and export ... a diversity of holdings which I don't want to discuss. You name it, we've got our hand in it."

Q: You spent a few months in late 1998, early 1999 away from the wrestling scene. Tell us about that time. Where did you go, what did you do?

A: "It was a pleasure to get away. The only reason I acted so miserable was so WCW would want to get rid of me and my mom would worry about me and I could get some time off. It's the only way you

can get a vacation around here. "Where did I go? To strip bars. I know 'em all, all around the country. And I know the women at each on a first-name basis and they, no doubt, know me."

Q: Dare we ask, what else do you enjoy doing away from wrestling ... you know, stuff for fun, thrills, chills, spills, etc.?

A: "I sleep a lot. I've been up for, oh, about 17 years straight, so I thought it was time to finally take a nap."

Q: What is your impression of Bam Bam Bigelow?

A: "He's a helluva talent, but Bam Bam is a pretender to my throne, as is Hak. They all are pretenders to my throne. I was the original King of Barbed Wire City; I was the ECW heavyweight champion. And, frankly, I'm appalled and insulted that they would wait until I was off, on an extended vacation, to boast, brag, and make their claims, especially when everyone knows that title is mine. I was the one who put people through tables; I was the one who drop-toe-holded people onto chairs. I was the one who brought violence to ECW, then WCW. I would have easily won that three-way match if it hadn't been for my lowlife sister."

Q: Any particular encounters with Bam Bam that stand out to you?

A: "On an independent show about six or seven years ago, we wrestled. The thing that stands out to me about that match is, he went to press me over his head and I raked his eyes and he dropped me right on top of him and he had his elbows up, so he smashed my jaw and split my lip open. That's all I remember from the match, other than the fact that I pinned him."

Q: Any particular encounter with Hak that stands out to you?

A: "I've wrestled him millions and billions of times. He's nursed me out of gutters; I've nursed him out of gutters. He took me to rehab when I went, which of course didn't work ... but that's neither here nor there. I've been in cage matches against him, and also barbed wire matches. In fact, the first barbed wire match I was ever in was against him. And if I recall correctly, I pinned him that day."

Q: What's ahead for you?

A: "Let's see, I'm 30 now, so I probably have 15 plus-years to go ... so I'm in no hurry to get my hands on anyone. But when I do pick someone I want to stomp, I'll do it like bikers at a rally."

Q: What else would you like to talk about?

A: "Let's talk about you people. Why do you constantly aggravate me with questions?"

Q: Because everyone wants to know about you.

A: "People do dig me, don't they? Especially girls. In fact, according to Colin Bowman, the publisher of this magazine, there have been many letters (sent to the magazine) directed to me from women all around the world ... or maybe Colin was just trying to kiss up to me so I would answer your questions."

Q: Let's try to get back to some matters of more importance, such as Saturn, the man in a dress. What do you think of his change in character?

A: "Well, I've always known he's a cross-dresser. I'm just surprised it's taken him this long to come out of the closet. Now that he's out of the closet, I'm sure you'll find that what's in the closet is a pretty snappy wardrobe. I think it's good for him. I think everyone should come out of the closet, if they're in the closet. Or, some people who don't have any talent, they should go in the closet. Personally, I have nothing to do with the closet. I can deal with people in the closet or out of the closet ... just as long as they are tattooed, pierced freaks."

Q: What about your sister, Chastity?

A: "She's pretty good looking don't ya think. She's just like the rest of my family, a deceptive, backstabbing $£@! and you've gotta love that!"

Q: What about championship gold?

A: "Conspiracy. Obviously you have to know someone to even get championship matches. I hate to sound like Jericho when I rant and rave about this, but WCW just isn't gonna give me a title shot. So, since I'm not gonna get one, I'm just gonna entertain myself."

Q: Any questions for us, Raven?

A: "Yeah ... is this going to be a cover story."

Q: Yeah, without a doubt.

A: "Are you lying to me?"

Q: Yes we are.

A: "I like that. If you're lying to me, at least be honest about it."

Q: How about a final thought, please?

A: "Revenge is a dish best served cold."

WCW/nWo

UnCeNSORed

March 14, 1999 · Louisville, Kentucky

If you wanted unbridled, no-frills, nonstop action, 1999's WCW/nWo UnCensored was the place to be! Not one, but three important championships changed hands on a supercard that will keep the wrestling world buzzing for years. Freedom Hall will never be the same ... nor will the careers of the men in the main event, Hollywood Hogan and the "Nature Boy" Ric Flair!

CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE MATCH

KIDMAN

VS.

MIKEY WHIPWRECK

Some fans might not have known who Whipwreck was, but Kidman knew the reputation of this highly regarded former East Coast independent champion and was making his WCW debut. If Kidman didn't [illegible] respect Whipwreck at bell time, he certainly did after just a couple of moments of action, as Mikey [illegible] the Cruiserweight Champion move for move. When Whipwreck [illegible] Kidman [illegible] rolling, Kidman knew he was in for one of his toughest title defenses to date. The champion grew more aggressive as the [illegible] wore on, and his second attempt at a Shooting Star Press secured a hard-fought pinfall victory. This match made Whipwreck a top contender for the Cruiserweight belt, a refreshing new presence in WCW, and cemented Kidman's reputation. (11:05)

WINNER: KIDMAN BY PINFALL

Fans agreed: UnCensored was the right name for this event after they got a good look at Perry Saturn! Instead of rebelling against the dress he had been forced to wear due to a match stipulation against Jericho, Saturn had obviously decided to just go with it. He showed up with chains, yellow eyes, a leather skirt, and so much makeup, he would make Marilyn Manson blush! Jericho was his usual craven self, stalling and trying to get Ralphus

DOG COLLAR MATCH

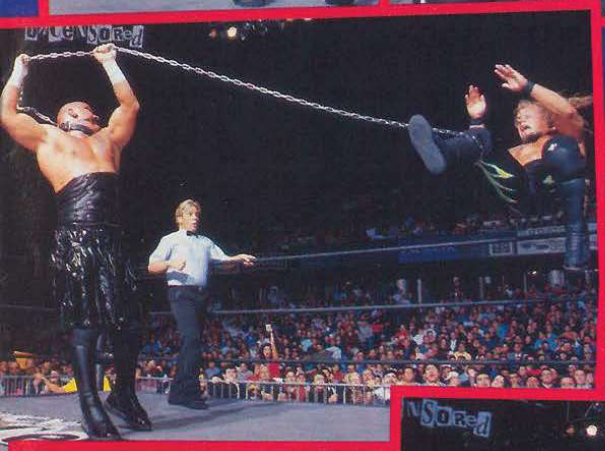
PERRY SATURN

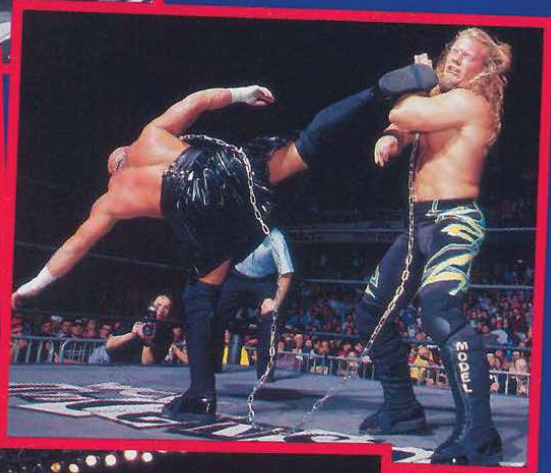
VS.

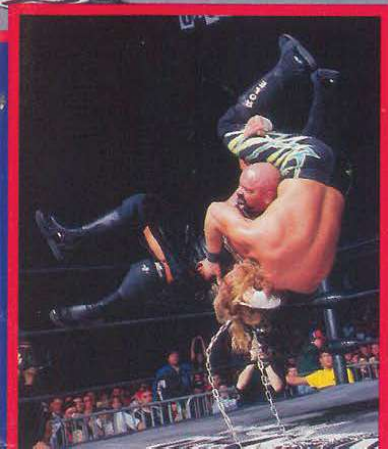
CHRIS JERICHO w/ Ralphus

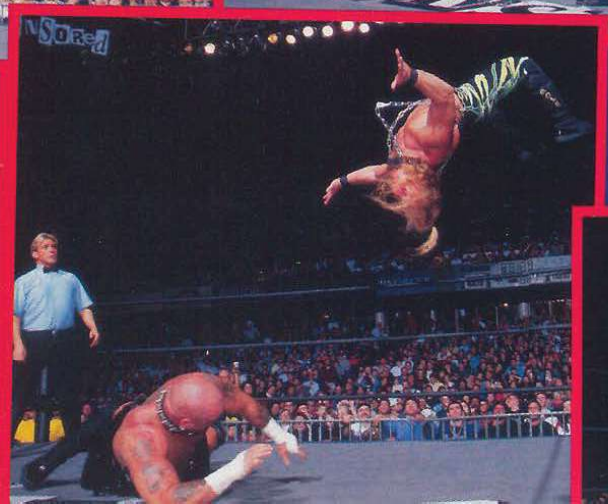
to put on the dog collar instead. Showing rare smarts, Ralphus simply walked away! When "Chickenheart" finally got into the ring, Saturn attacked him and forced the dog collar around his neck, and then things truly got nasty. Chris used the chain as a weapon, tying up Saturn and using it to choke him. Later, Saturn got his revenge by literally hanging Jericho over the ropes with the chain! It looked bad for Saturn when Jericho kicked out of a pinfall following a Death Valley Driver, but the second time was the charm. The "new" Saturn scored the win, but what weirdness can we expect in the coming weeks from this skirt-clad oddity? (11:51)

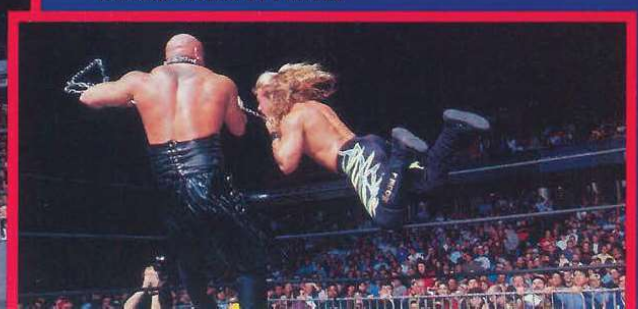
WINNER: SATURN BY PINFALL

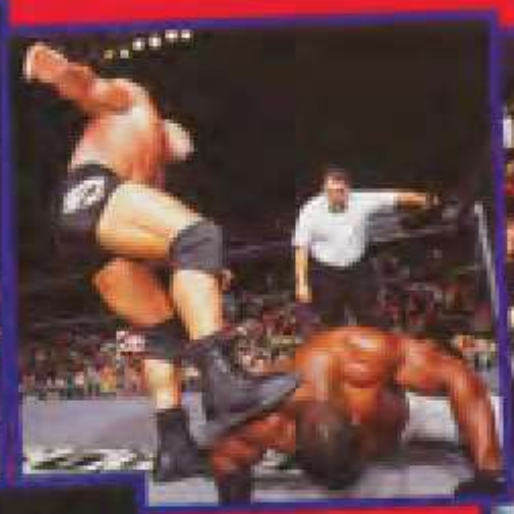


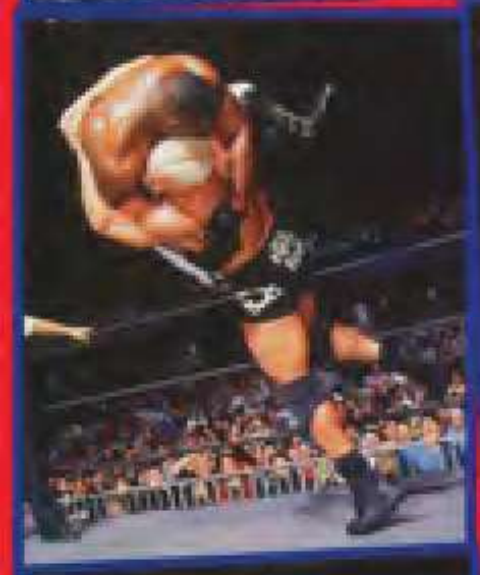


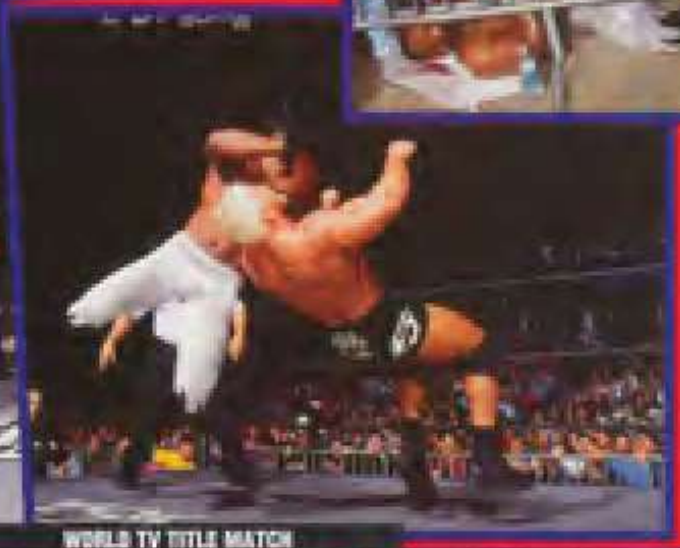










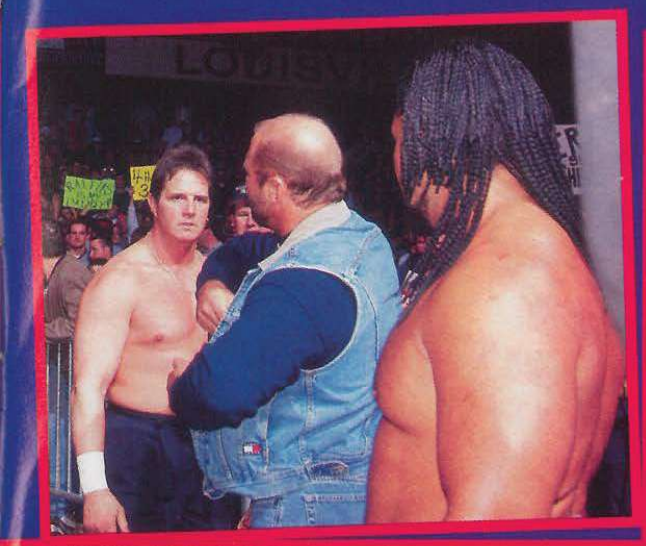


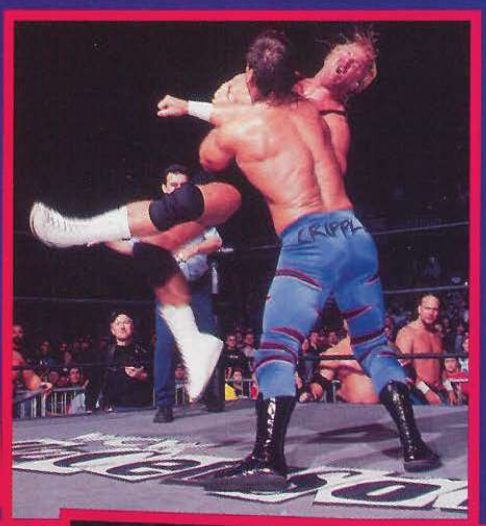
WORLD TV TITLE MATCH

SCOTT STEINER w/ Buff Bagwell

VS.

BOOKER T





WORLD TAG TEAM STRAP/LUMBERJACK MATCH

BARRY WINDHAM & CURT HENNIG

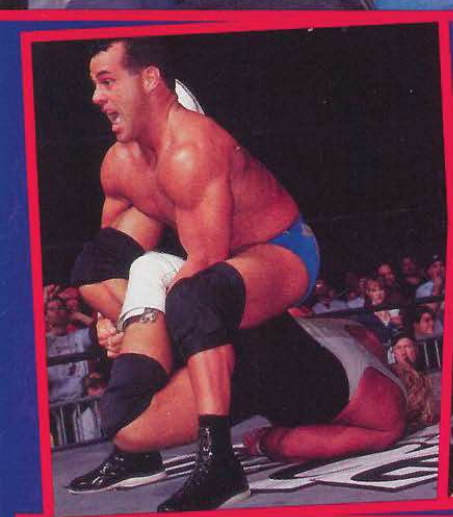
VS.

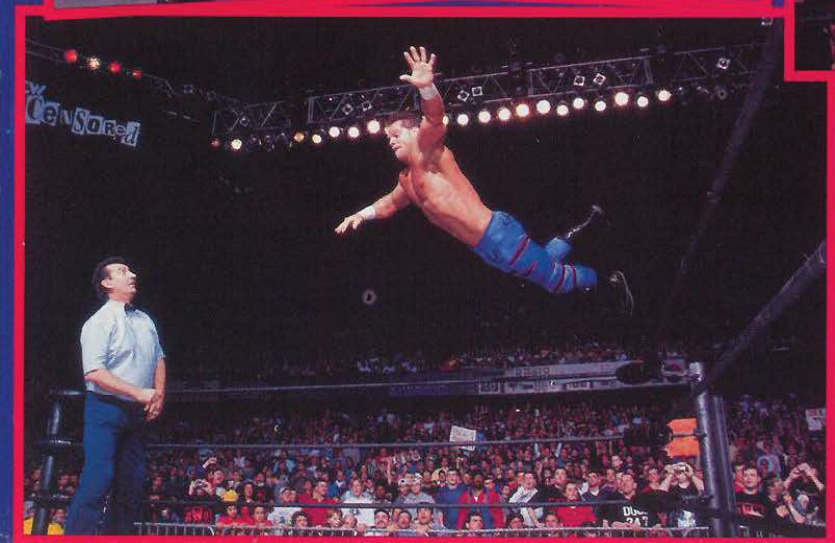
CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO

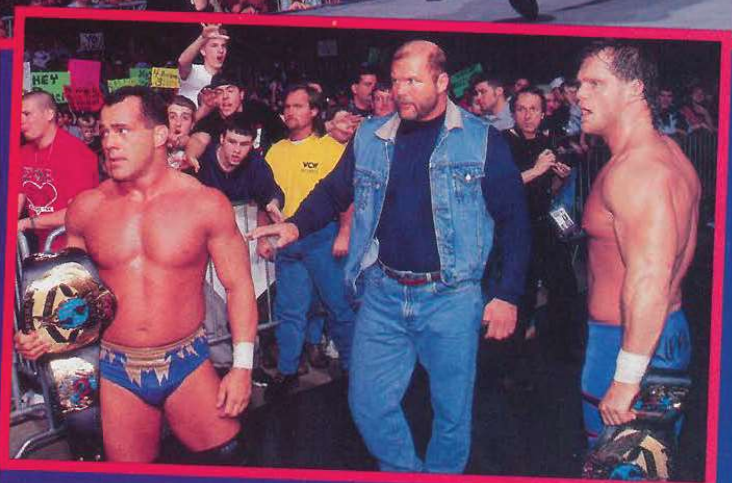
LUMBERJACKS:
Norman Smiley, Prince Iaukea, Hugh Morrus, Kenny Kaos, Bobby Duncum, Jr., Meng, Kendall Windham, and Arn Anderson (replacing Gentleman Chris Adams)

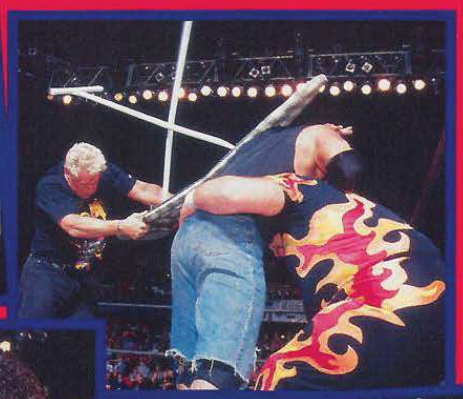
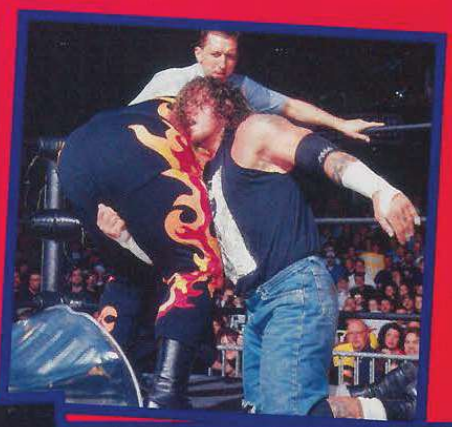
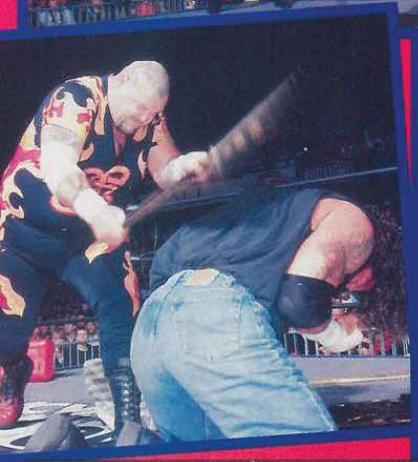
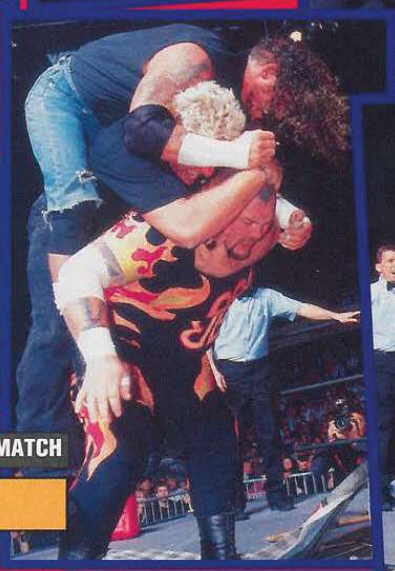
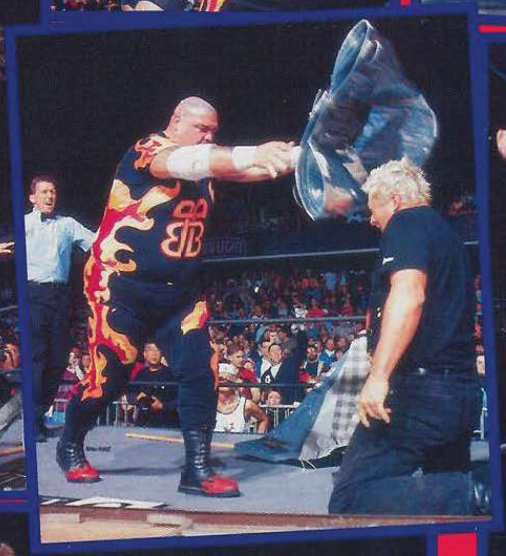
Right from the start, Horseman leader Arn Anderson knew something was wrong with this picture: Kendall Windham serving as a belt-wielding lumberjack for a match his own brother was involved in? Double-A ran to ringside and asked Adams if he could sub for him, and the British star agreed. The match was on, this time with an even advantage for both sides! Right from the start, the competitors knew they could not leave the ring, because if they did, the lumberjacks would whip them and throw them back into the fray! Both Malenko and Benoit wrestled hungrily, but the veteran team of Hennig and Windham kept them off balance with their advantage in power. Late in the bout, Hennig spirited away a belt and blasted Anderson with it, but the wily Enforcer removed a tire iron from his denim vest and clocked Hennig. Benoit followed with an incredible flying headbutt from the top turnbuckle, soaring almost the entire length of the ring. One pinfall later, new World Tag Team Champions were crowned. (15:58)

WINNERS: BENOIT & MALENKO







"KING OF HARDCORE" ANYTHING GOES MATCH

RAVEN w/ Chastity

VS.

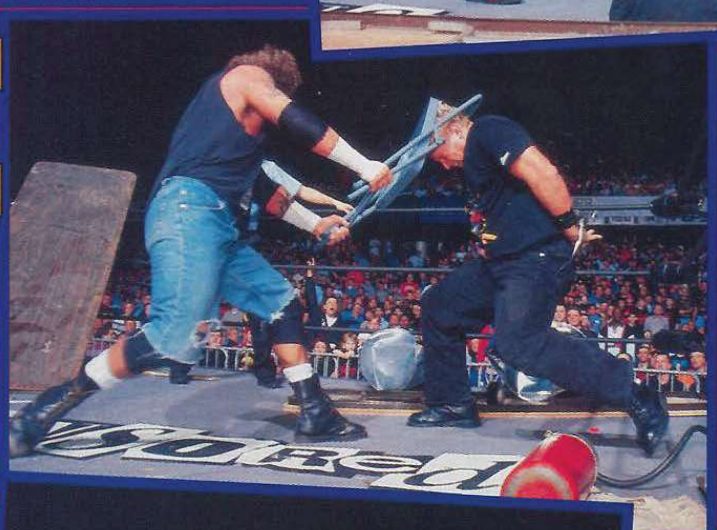
HAK

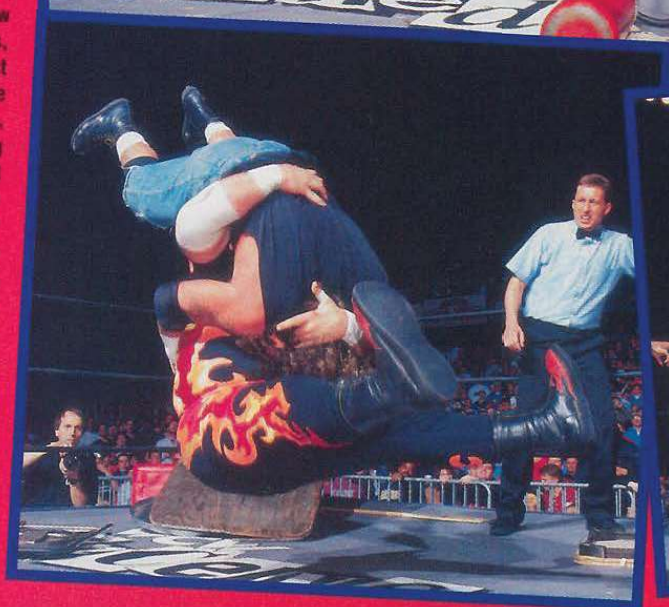
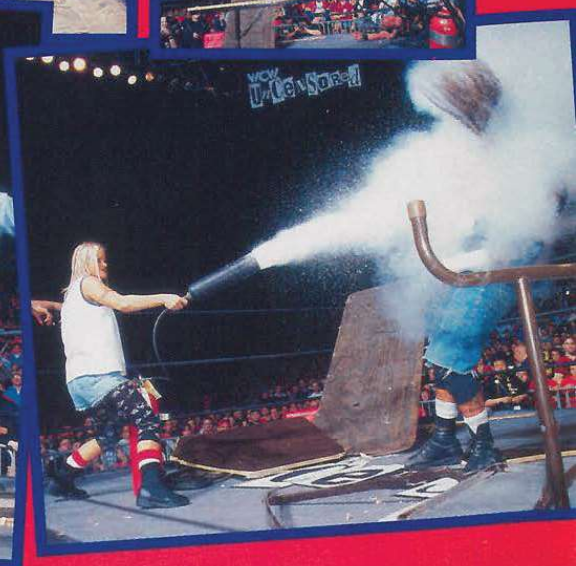
VS.

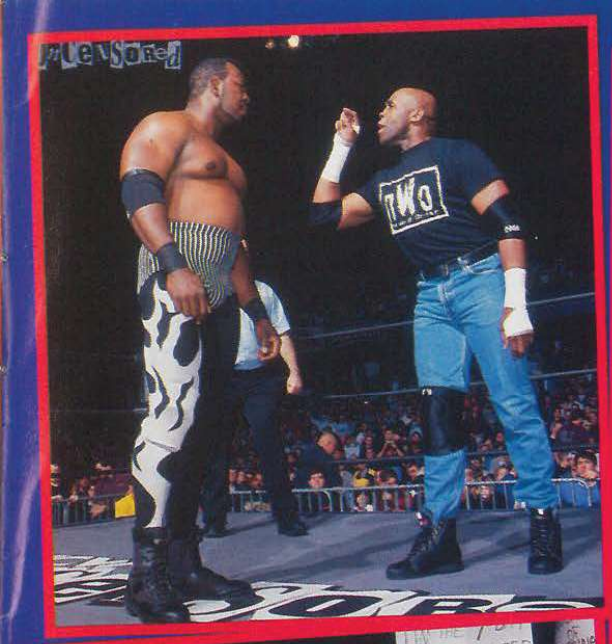
BAM BAM BIGELOW

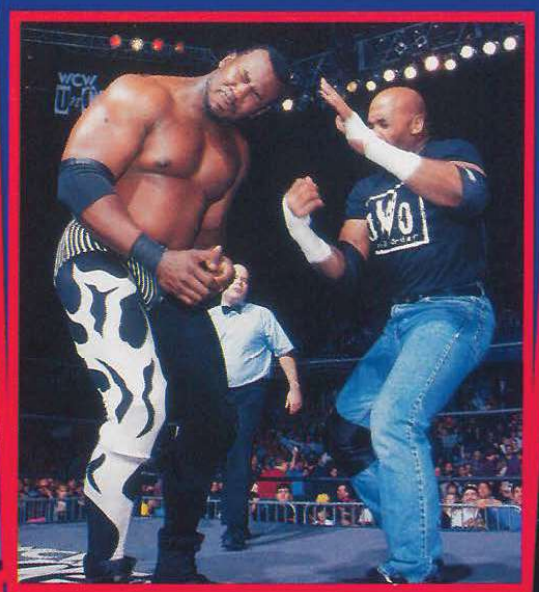
Which of these three "extreme" battlers would be dubbed WCW's hardcore leader? All three wanted to win badly, but it took a sudden twist of fate to determine a winner in this wild bout! Fans got a lot more than they bargained for when, moments after the bell Raven's sister Chastity pulled out a huge bin filled with various objects the three stars could use to clobber each other with! Chairs, brooms, a box fan, garbage cans, oars, snow shovels, gas cans, a mailbox, cookie sheets, a paint tray, and an ironing board were just some of the weapons on the menu! All three men took a brutal beating, particularly Hak, who was left lying at the edge of the ring after being brutalized by both the "Beast from the East" and Raven. Bigelow gave an incredible showing of resilience, power bombing Hak on a table, then splashing him right through it. However, Chastity actually turned against her brother, giving him a blast from a fire extinguisher, allowing Hak to score the pin after a headbutt. Then Chastity left the ring with Hak after the decision! Hak now considers himself the hardcore king, but he surely hasn't heard the last of either Bigelow or the angry, betrayed Raven. (15:03)

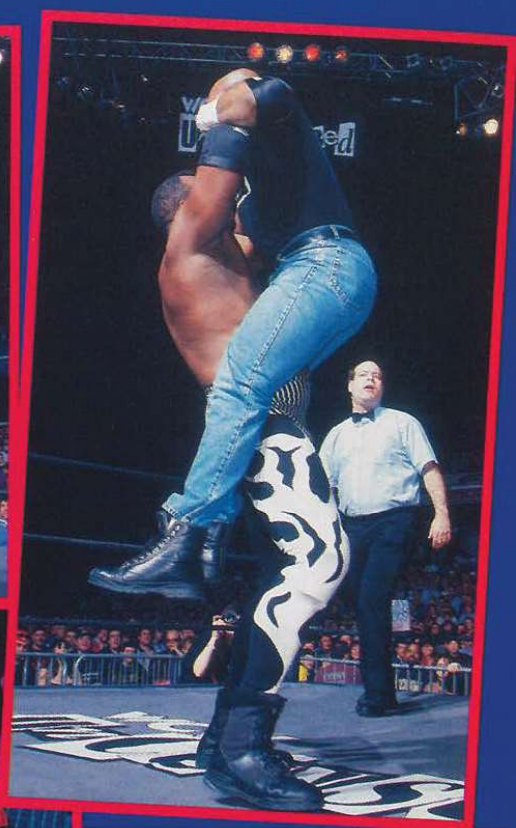
WINNER: HAK BY PINFALL

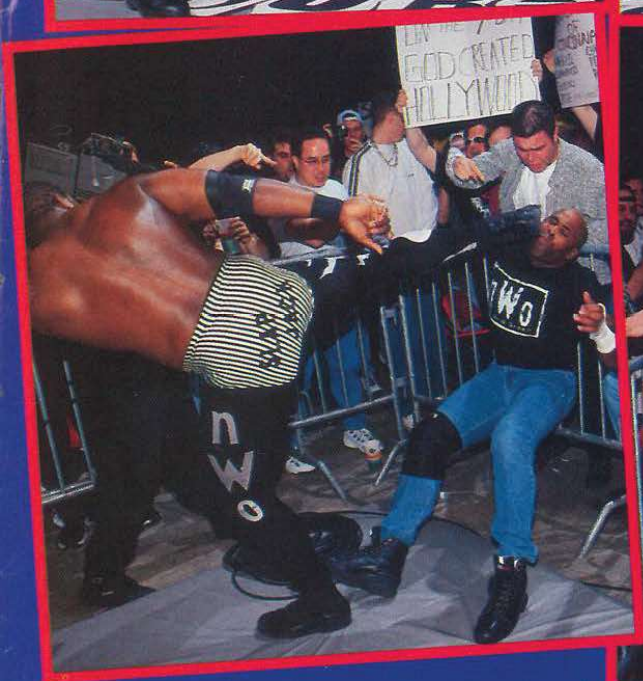


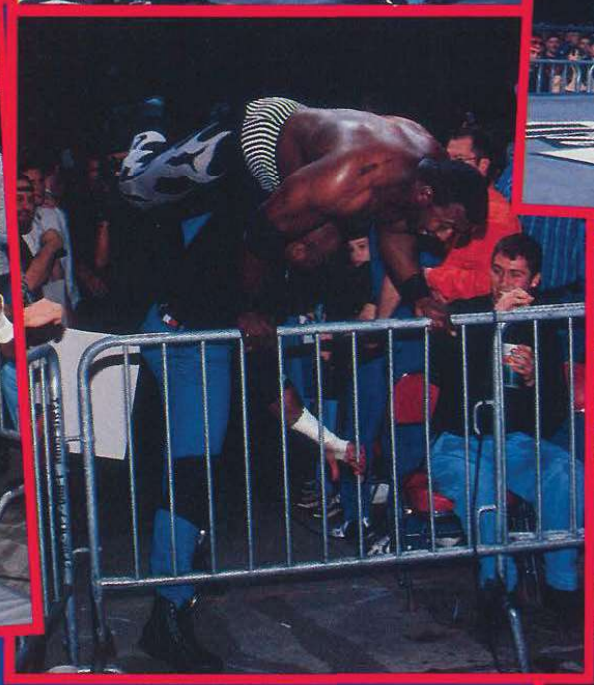



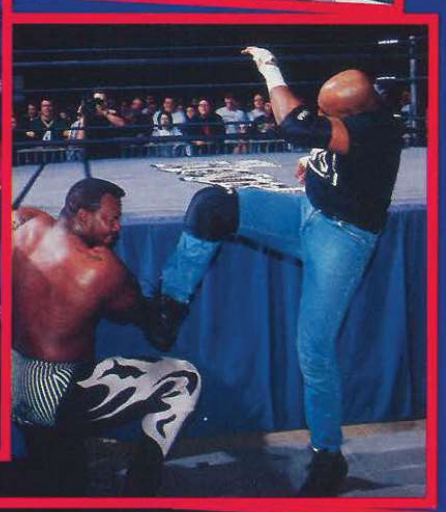






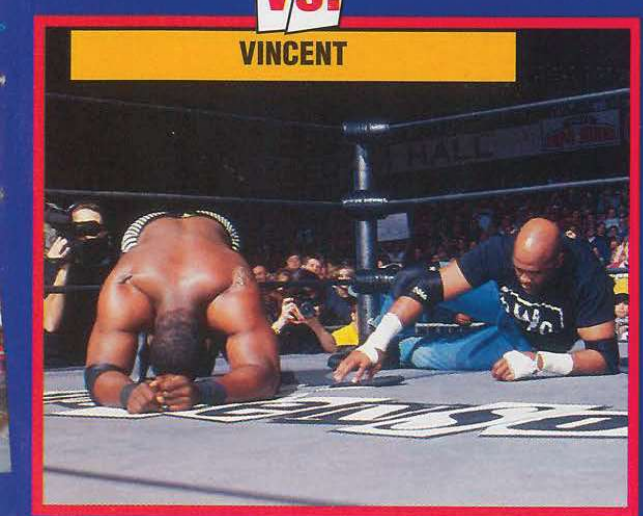






HARLEM STREET FIGHT MATCH FOR THE BLACK & WHITE LEADERSHIP

STEVIE RAY VS. VINCENT



Both Hollywood Hogan's flunky Vincent and veteran Stevie Ray had been at loggerheads over who the "leader" of the nWo Black & White was supposed to be, but Vincent might have erred in agreeing to this Harlem Street Fight. After all, Stevie Ray grew up in that rugged part of New York, and when the action spilled out into the crowd, the former Harlem Heat member thrashed Vincent amongst banks of seats. Later, Horace Hogan showed up at ringside and slid a SlapJack into the ring. Vincent got to it first, but Stevie kicked him in the stomach, then gave him his own SlapJack — the maneuver, not the illegal object — for the win! Did this match truly determine who the real Black & White leader is? Stay tuned! (6:41)
WINNER: STEVIE RAY BY PINFALL

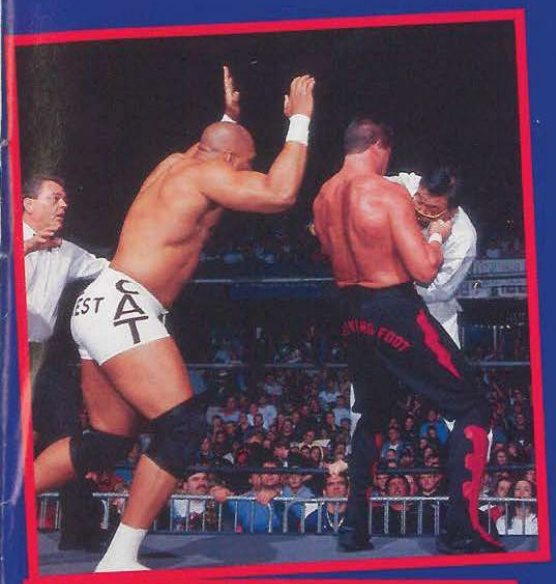
KEVIN NASH w/ Lex Luger and Miss Elizabeth

VS.

REY MYSTERIO, JR.

Mysterio was getting to be known as a giant killer, and his victory over Nash on Nitro was one of the biggest wins of his career. Could Rey be expected to score a second victory over the seven-foot Big Sexy? It appeared that might be the case as Mysterio had garnered victories over other huge WCW superstars such as Scott Norton and [illegible]. It was proof that a good small man can beat a good big man, but on this night, the odds were simply stacked against Rey. It did appear that Mysterio was in control, even riding Nash like a bucking bronco in the center of the ring. However, Lex Luger sneaked in and tripped Mysterio, sending Rey to the canvas. Nash followed this with a huge kick. One Jackknife power bomb later, Nash scored yet another tainted victory. But who could expect better from the man who gave the WCW title to Hogan? (8/10)

WINNER: NASH BY PINFALL.



HANDICAP MATCH

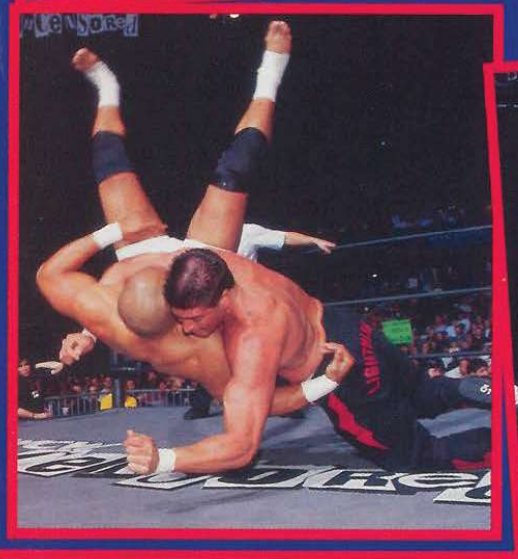
JERRY FLYNN

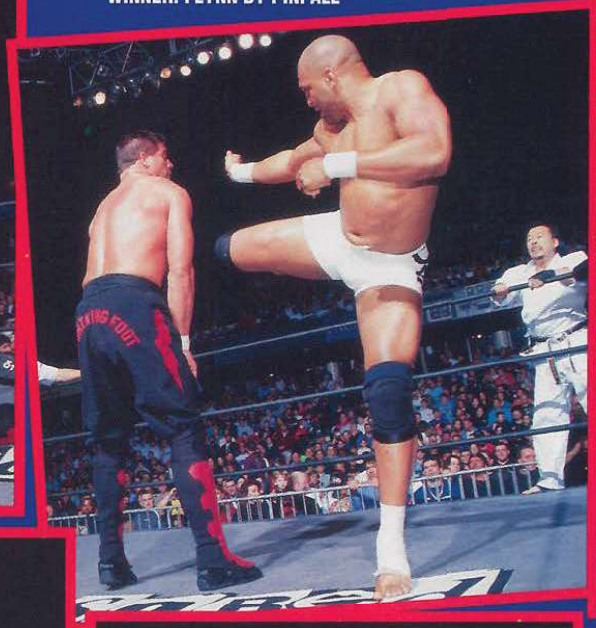
VS.

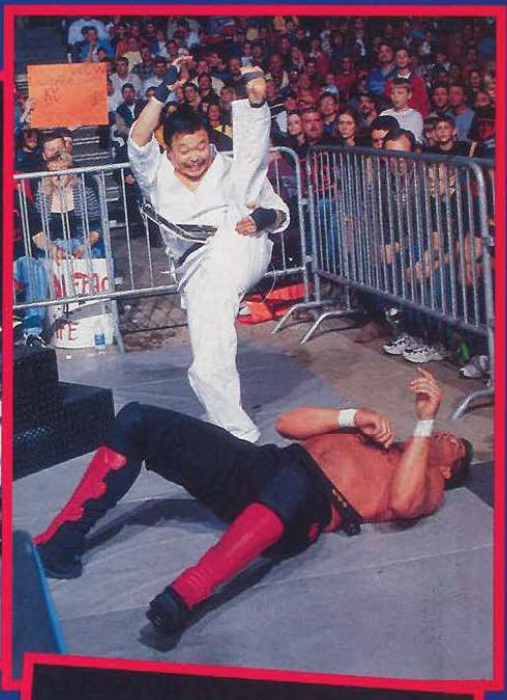
SONNY ONOO & THE CAT

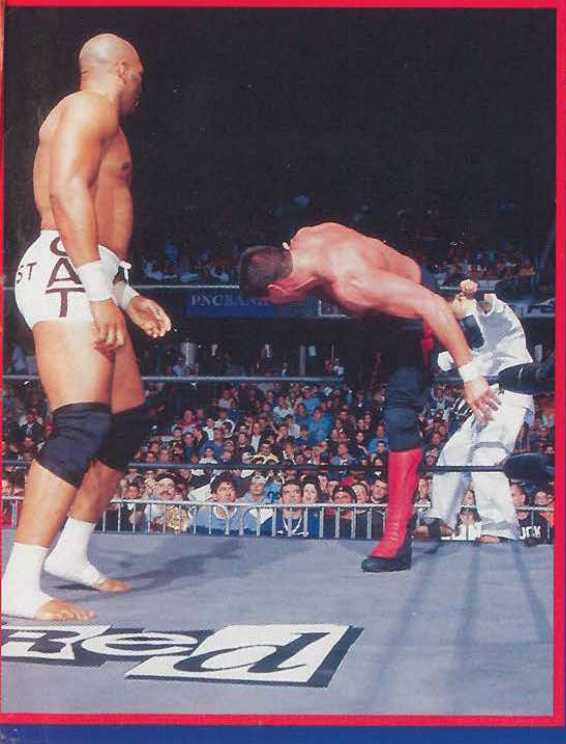
Rising star Flynn was lusting for revenge after The Cat and Onoo cut off his ponytail in a backstage melee during an interview, so Flynn simply decided to take them both on! Flynn went after them, but it was soon apparent that the odious Onoo wanted no part of Lightning Foot, a skilled martial artist. Onoo claimed to be undefeated as a WCW wrestler, but guess who Flynn pinned to score this victory, despite the best efforts of Miller? Flynn reversed an Irish whip and sent The Cat barreling into the corner, where he crashed into Onoo, sending him sprawling to the canvas making him an easy pinfall victim. (7:07)

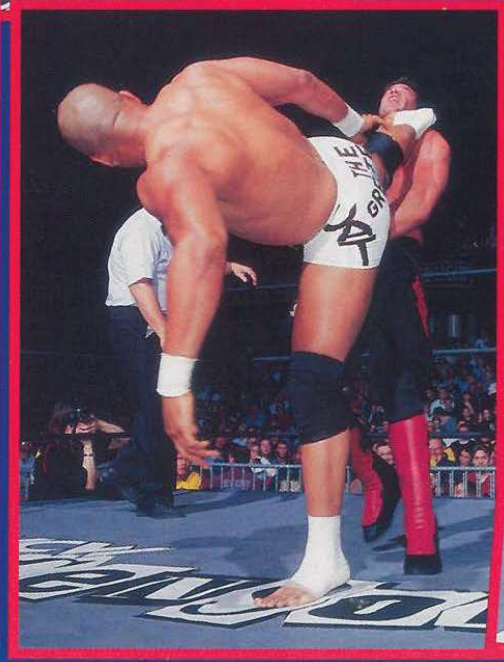
WINNER: FLYNN BY PINFALL

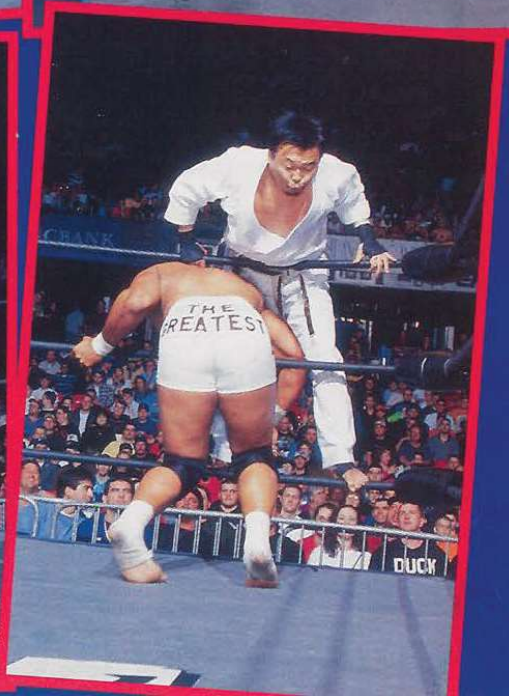


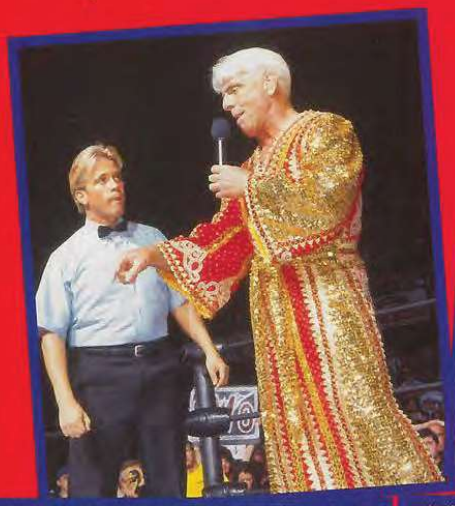


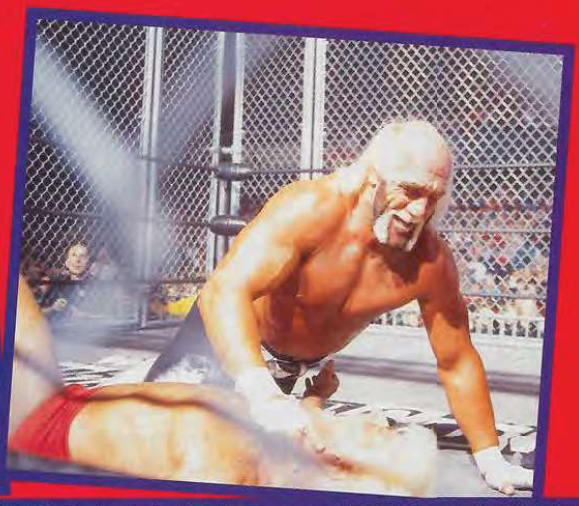


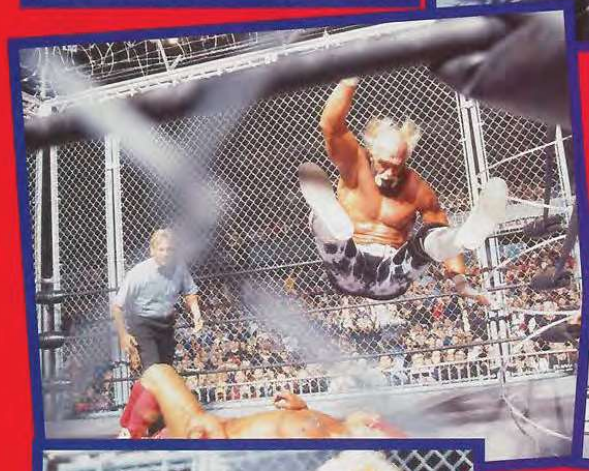


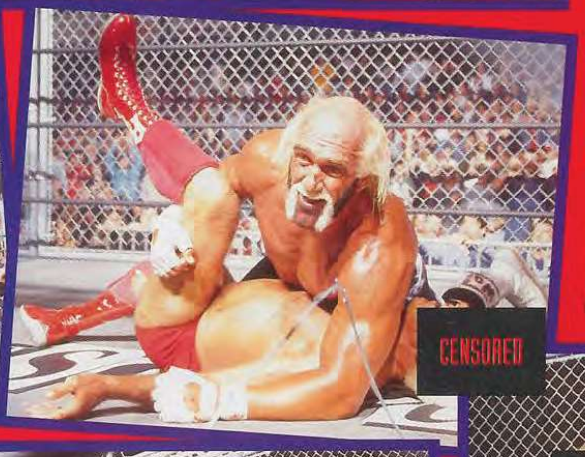


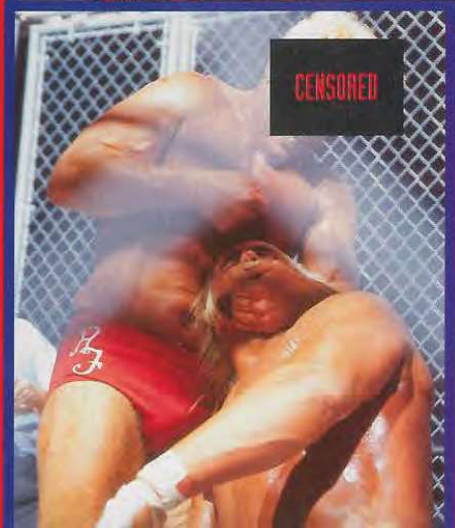


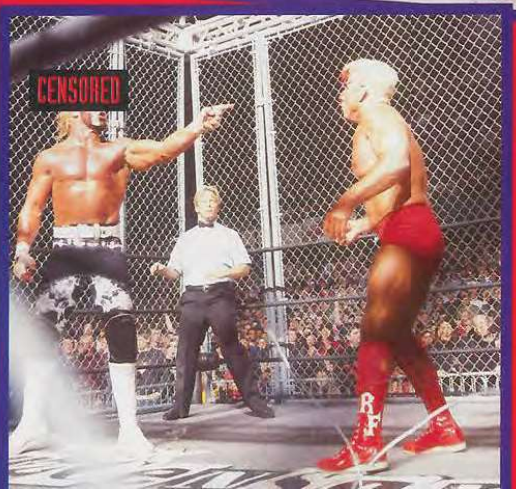












WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP/FIRST BLOOD/ BARBED WIRE STEEL CAGE/RETIREMENT OR PERMANENT PRESIDENCY OF WCW FOR FLAIR MATCH

HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

VS.

RIC FLAIR

As the ominous steel cage was lowered, its top wrapped in razor sharp barbed wire, fans knew this was going to be a bloody, all-out war. Its ending was controversial, but historic, nonetheless.

The pre-match stipulations were many: Of course, the winner would be the WCW World Champion. Also, if Flair were to lose, he would be banished from WCW for life. But if he won, he would be named WCW President for life! Clearly, this match had far-reaching ramifications. Before the opening bell, Flair sternly instructed referee Charles Robinson not to stop the match for "scratches" or small cuts.

Amazingly, it was Flair that was busted open first, particularly after Hogan had reached up for a piece of the barbed wire and raked it across his face. However, despite this, Robinson allowed the match to continue. When Hogan attempted pinfalls, Robinson ignored them and refused to make counts, as it was his responsibility to decide which man could not continue.

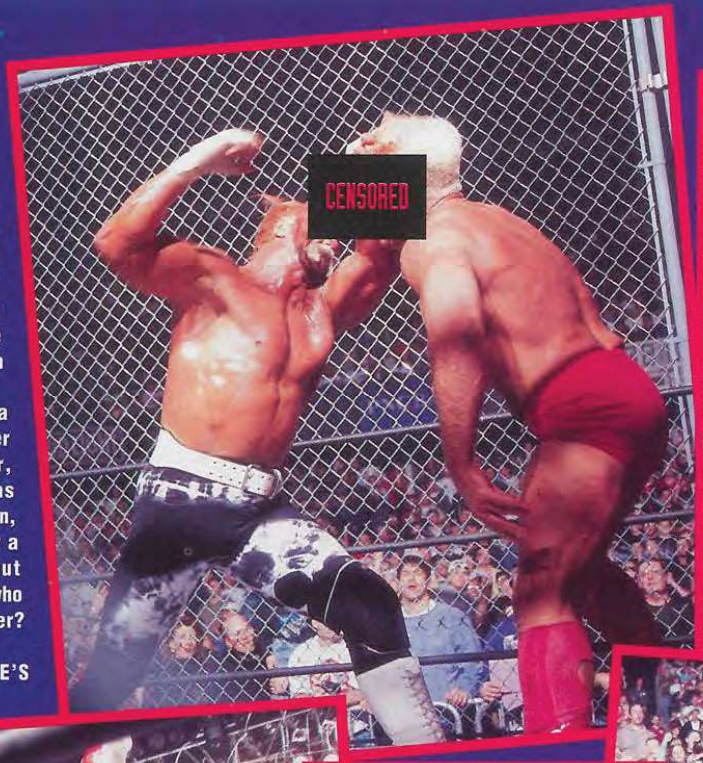
Next, it was Hogan's turn to be cut, and soon, both wrestlers faces were crimson. However, Hogan battled back very strongly, even scoring with a legdrop, but again, Robinson would not count a pin. Next, David Flair and his gorgeous blonde girlfriend, Sam (actually an nWo operative) came to ringside to cheer Hogan on. Flair spit at his son, called him a punk, and continued on with the match!

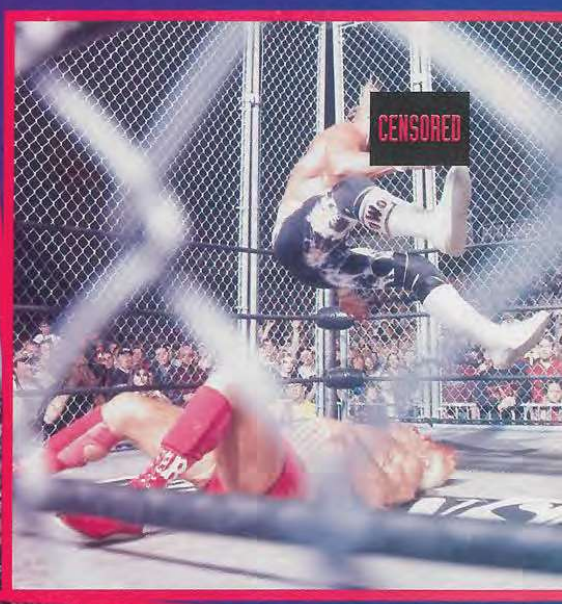
Flair took over the offense, but Hogan picked him up and used him as a battering ram, his head striking the gritty mesh of the cage. Referee Robinson was

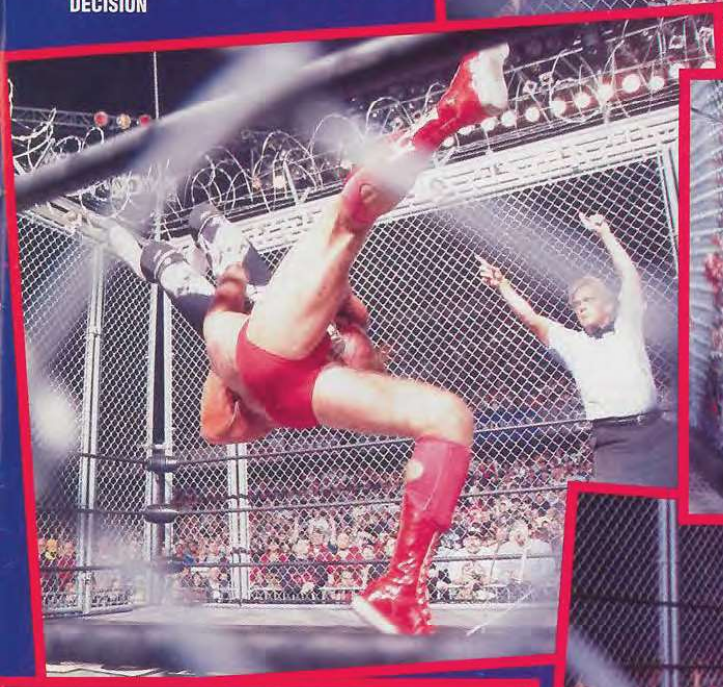
accidentally wiped out by Hogan following a whip, and when Hogan tried to help the official up, he was greeted with a low blow by Flair. Outside the ring, Arn Anderson showed up and blasted David with his fists! Samantha jumped on his back to try to end the attack, but Anderson simply shrugged her off. Anderson then slipped his tire iron into the cage, which Flair used to smash Hogan.

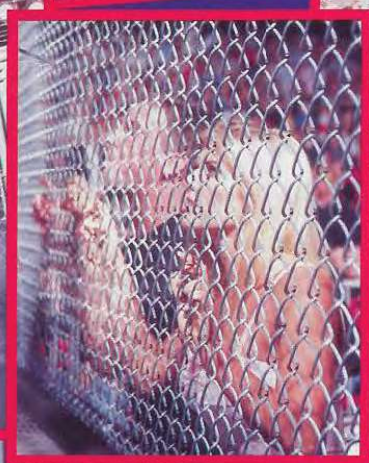
Flair put Hogan into a figure-four, and shockingly, after refusing to count pins on Flair, Robinson gave Hogan, who was nearly unconscious from the tire iron, a quick three-count! Flair was now a 14-time World Champion ... but what's next for the "Nature Boy," who suddenly seems drunk with power? (14:21)

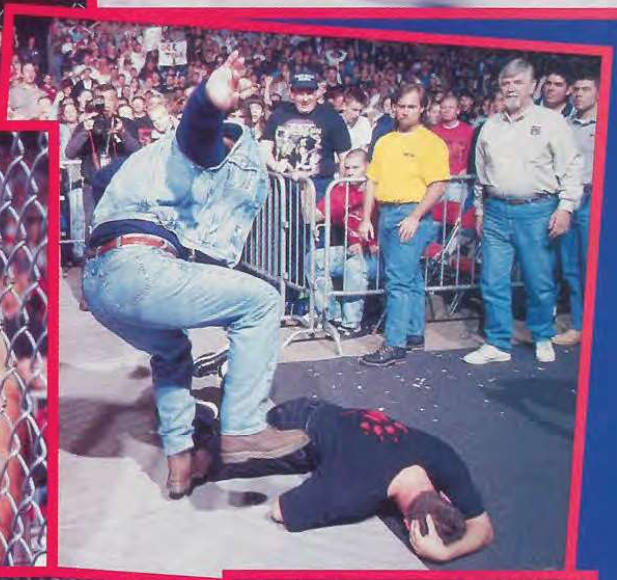
WINNER: FLAIR BY REFEREE'S DECISION

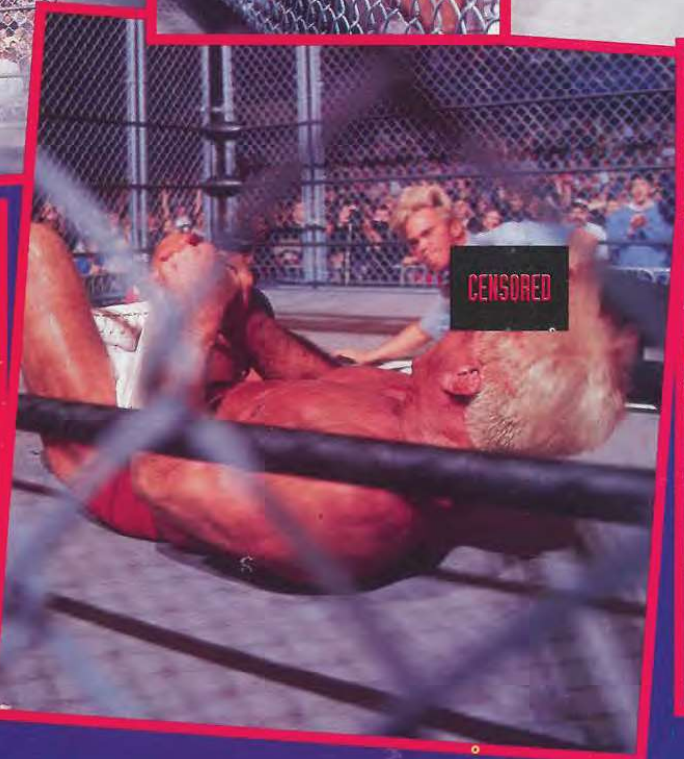


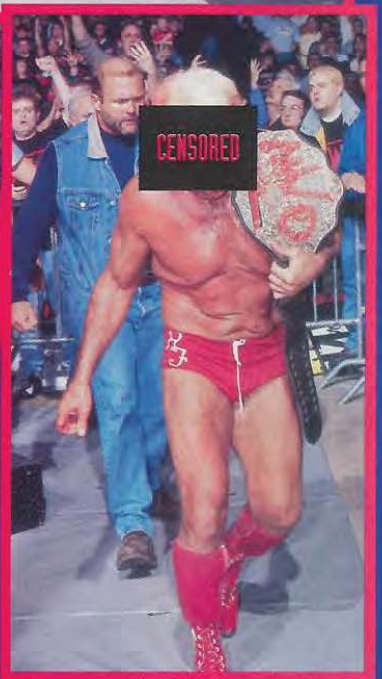












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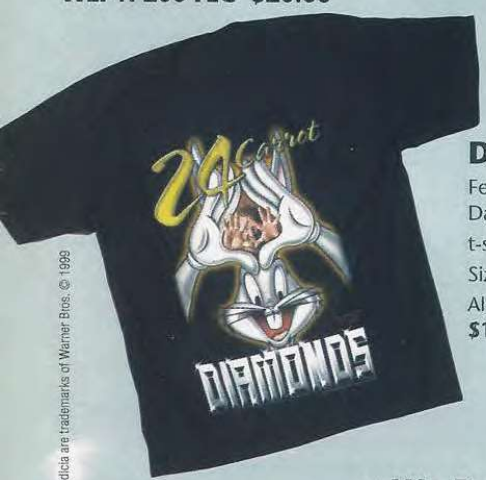

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back

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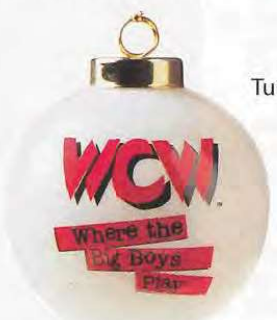

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TALKING POINT

With Mike Tenay

There's the old cliché about records being made to be broken, and that applies to wrestling and all pro sports, for that matter. And, lately, time honored traditions, as well, seem to be a thing of the past.

In many instances, like the ebb, we can list all of the negative aspects of old school traditions falling by the wayside. But one huge positive that breaks all ties with the historic side of the business pertains to luchadors losing their masks. For years, a defeat in a Mask Match meant certain career death. The superhero identity that was cultivated for years was suddenly gone and, more often than not, the unmasked luchador never quite lived up to his previously masked status, which often led to retirement.

But in recent years, two high-profile wrestlers have lost their masks ... and both have rebounded to gain even more fame and fortune. And a third recently took a huge step in that direction.

First, Konnan broke the mold when his career in Mexico flourished after losing his mask. That career success was in and out of the ring, where he portrayed his wrestling fame into music, TV and movie stardom. From there, he gained a shot with WCW, where he has been a U.S. and Televisión Champion, in addition to starring in two music videos. His association with the ebb Wolfpac was just the "rub" that K-Dogg needed to gain mainstream acceptance from the masses.

Second, Juventud Guerrera. It was February 1998, at SuperBrawl VIII, where Juvi risked his lifelong image for a shot at Chris Jericho's Cruiserweight Championship. (Juvi wore the same mask for his entire career and his father, Fuerza Guerrera, is still active today after a near-20-year career with a very similar mask.) After coming out on the short end of a very competitive, hard-fought war against Jericho, Juvi was forced to unmask in front of a national TV Pay-Per-View audience. How uncertain was the 23-year-old Juventud Guerrera, wondering if he had just committed career suicide by losing his family's identity? Post-match, Juvi cried in mid-ring and later that evening, he discussed the situation with his father by phone. Juventud Guerrera was dedicated to turning a negative into a positive ... and he's done just that by being a three-time Cruiserweight Champion, and by being even more recognizable sans mask.

The third luchador to lose his legendary mask is, of course, Rey Mysterio, Jr., who lost it in February at SuperBrawl. Mysterio and tag partner Konnan lost to the Outsiders, thus costing Rey, Jr. his mask. Rey, Jr. took his ring name and ring style from his uncle, Rey Mysterio, Sr., who still competes south of the border. Will Rey Jr. be able to repeat the unmasked success of his ex-rival, Juventud Guerrera, and his mentor/big brother, Konnan? Well, the jury is still out with its official verdict, but if the early returns are any indication, Rey Mysterio, Jr. is gonna do just fine. Just one day after SuperBrawl, Rey Jr. scored his biggest win ever, defeating Kevin Nash in the middle of the Nitro ring. Think of the symbolism: The biggest man in the locker room and a former World Heavyweight Champion, losing to the smallest man — in terms of stature — on the roster. No doubt Rey Mysterio, Jr. has the biggest heart in the sport ... that goes miles. Personally, I feel Rey Jr. is on track to match and, perhaps, exceed the accomplishments of Konnan and Juventud.

BLITZKRIEG BLITZ: This new masked cruiserweight joined the WCW roster just days after last month's *Toe-Holds* from Tenay went to press, but it's time to state the obvious for the record: Blitzkrieg's sky-twisting, top rope moonsault is incredible. This young Southern California native studied lucha libre and idolized Rey Mysterio, Jr. Blitzkrieg is very limited in experience (under 100 matches), but the sky definitely is the limit for this future WCW Cruiserweight Champion. Blitzkrieg's moonsault is just the first of what promises to be a lengthy list of moves worthy of ranking in the *Toe-Holds*.

Best wishes until next month,
Mike

Straight Shooting

by SCHIAVONE

Nitro Backstage Blast may be the name of a monthly WCW program on DirecTV, but for the announcers who work WCW Monday Nitro on a weekly basis, a BLAST BACKSTAGE is what we enjoy each and every live telecast. There is only ONE reason for this. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan.

The most frequent question I'm asked is: "What's it like working with Bobby Heenan?"

The answer is pretty simple — what you see it what you get. The Brain on Nitro is a pompous, arrogant jerk who is self-centered and loathes all that is good and right.

Compare that to the Bobby Heenan we know and relate to on the road and backstage prior to our broadcasts.

THAT man is a pompous, arrogant jerk who is self-centered and loathes all that is good and right. You get the picture.

The sad story here is that all the announcers love him for it. We would not have "The Brain" any other way.

Some lessons about Heenan from the road:

THE ANGRY BRAIN

In Peoria one night, I was trying to park under the Civic Center for easy access; however, a lady security guard would not let me drive the car down the ramp. My passengers? Heenan and Mike Tenay. Heenan had pretty much been asleep since we left O'Hare Airport in Chicago FOUR HOURS before, so he woke to find this lady not budging in our efforts to drive closer to the arena, totally unimpressed at our status as big-time wrestling announcers. It turned into a Heenan tirade of epic proportions. I would say in a span of 45 seconds we discovered that Heenan's opinions of this lady went from weight class to sexual preference. The lady was angry and Tenay and I were embarrassed, but hey, the true genius of "The Brain" came through as we achieved our goal.

"The Brain" we witness on the air each week pales in comparison to the "Angry Brain" who surfaces from time to time. When he is mad, no one ... NO ONE is better. After the initial shock of what Heenan said to this woman wore off, Tenay and I were most impressed with his style of browbeating. He is in a class by himself.

MR. ONE LINER

On a trip between Baltimore and Salisbury one spring, I was (AGAIN) behind the wheel with Tenay and Heenan in tow. I stopped for gas, and instead of walking inside to pay, I had to drive up to a window to pay a woman sitting inside a small cubicle. I pumped the gas, got back behind the wheel, and as I was driving slowly toward the "Pay Window," it was apparent that the woman getting ready to take our money was very, very heavy.

She was also getting ready to be "Weaseled."

I was ready as well. To save myself the embarrassment of a Heenan comment about her weight, I rolled down the window ever so slightly and stuck my credit card through the crack and quickly rolled it back up. My thought here was to put the window up quickly before the wisecrack came out of Heenan's mouth. It was a classic. "Miss," he said, "it's amazing you can still work. There can't be much air left!"

The lady never heard what he said, but she did notice I was crying.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST KLUTZ

For the many of you who have been to a WCW program live, you know Heenan cannot put one foot in front of the other without tripping. He frequently will stand up to take his bows to the fans, and fall on his rear getting back to his seat.

However, the scene at 4:45 a.m. in Pensacola last September will go down in WCW lore as the most bizarre scene ever in a hotel lobby (before 5:00 a.m.).

A gathering of about 10 of us were trying to check out early because we had to make a 6:00 a.m. flight. Tenay, myself, and a few others on the WCW crew were in line.

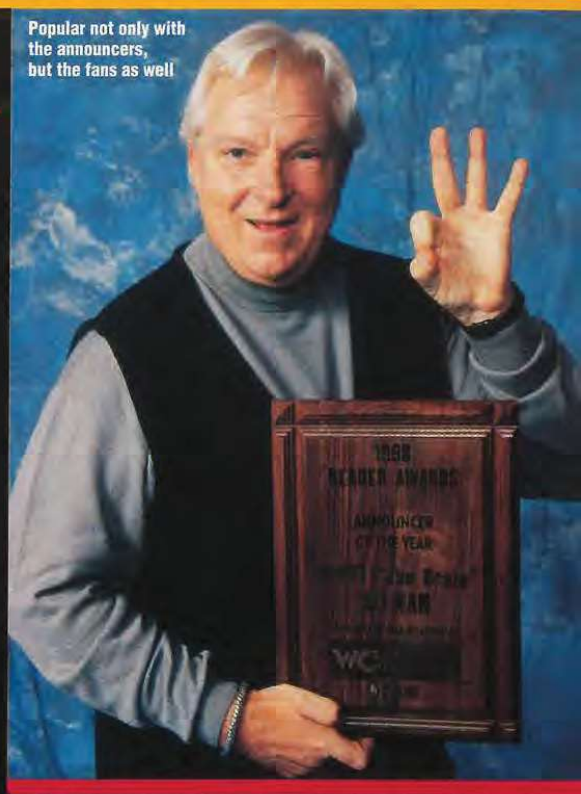
We were about to witness history.

Heenan was in front of me and off to the left was an elderly man cleaning the floor with one of those electronic buffing machines. The orange power cord was plugged in right below the front desk and RIGHT IN FRONT OF HEENAN. When it was Heenan's turn to step up to the desk, we had noticed that his left leg had somehow become entangled in this cord. He only took one step, and WHOOSH! The machine flew out of the guy's hand. Heenan hurtled forward. The lady at the front desk was mortified as all she could see from her point of view was Heenan's head disappearing behind the counter. He struggled to get to his feet, but to no avail. In his efforts to get up, the orange power cord, like a scene from *Anaconda*, had now become tangled around his throat. He rose up from the floor fighting this thing, swinging, pushing, and screaming. I glanced at the janitor; he was stunned. Speechless. I looked at the lady at the front desk. She was scared. I guess she, like Heenan, thought the cord was alive. Tenay was done. Down for the count. Laughing so hard it sounded like Muttley of Cartoon Network fame. The others in line were now doing the Tenay. All were hunched over in an uncontrollable belly laugh. I stood there not wanting to miss a second of this classic.

Finally, Heenan had won. He had killed the Day-glo orange serpent. He gathered it up and walked it over to the still speechless janitor and said with a smile, "Sorry."

Then he turned and stepped toward the lady at the front desk again and — yes, you guessed it — tripped over his feet. Ah, but this time he grabbed on to the front of the desk before he could hit the floor. Unfortunately, his hand hit a display full of various hotel leaflets that ended up in the clerk's lap. He quickly helped her pick these up and said, "Sorry, it's been a bad morning."

Ah, but for the rest of us, it was a grand morning. Two unsuspecting people had been "Weaseled" and it wasn't even 6:00 a.m.

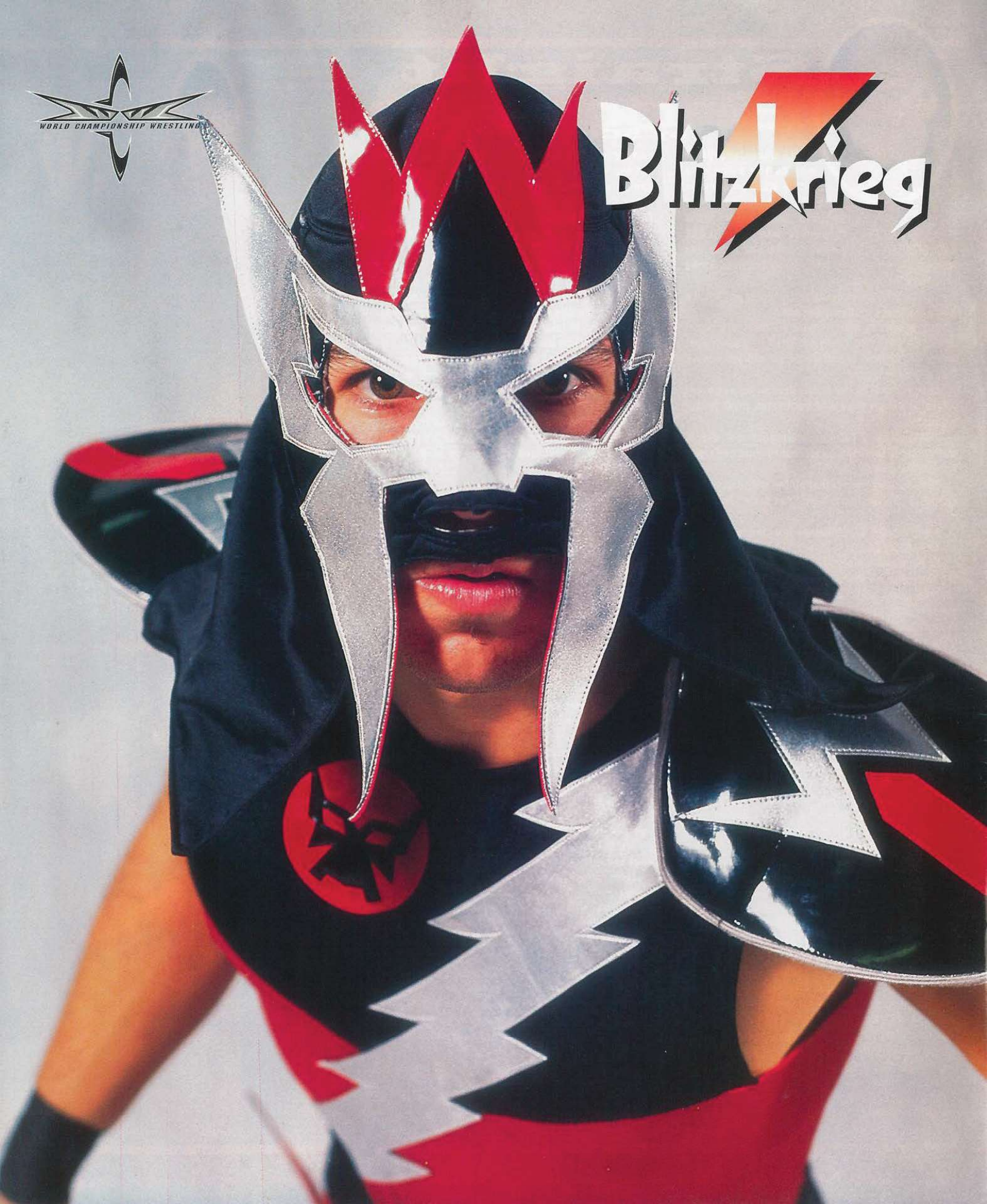


Popular not only with the announcers, but the fans as well

It has been scenes such as these, replayed throughout the years with an increasing dramatic flair, that has endeared Heenan to the broadcast team. Sometimes we wish he would just shut up and go away, but then we realize that we don't know what we would do without him.

Life would be boring.

Heenan: Always having a ball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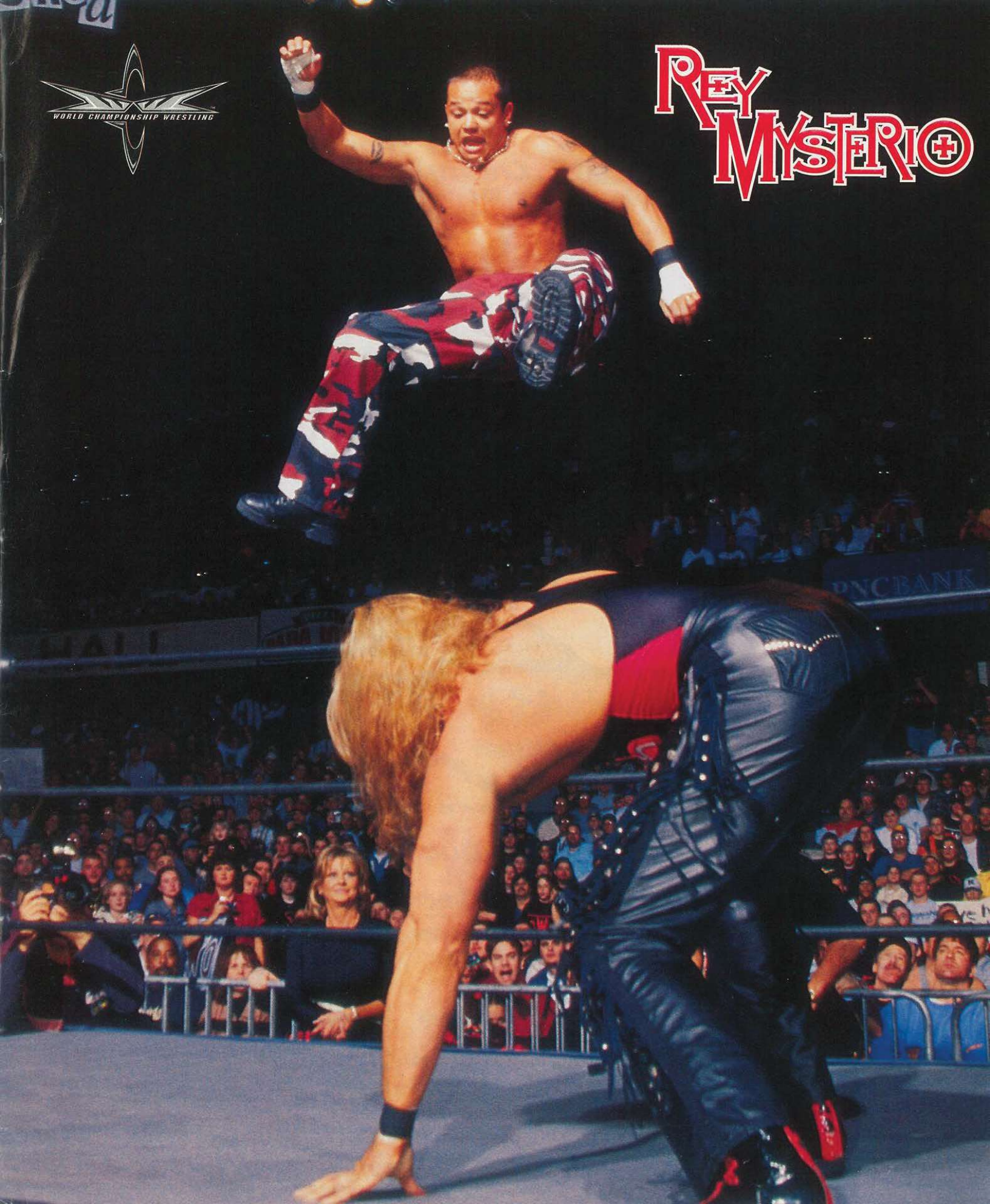
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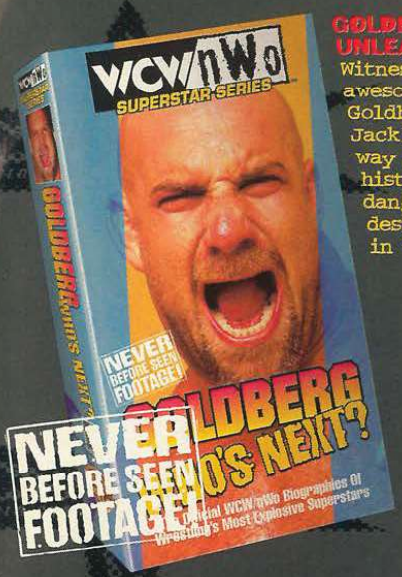

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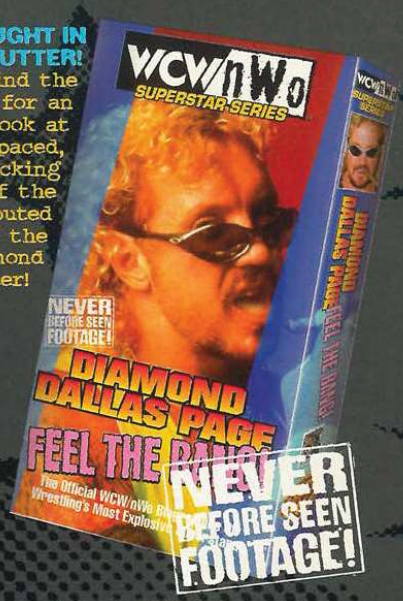

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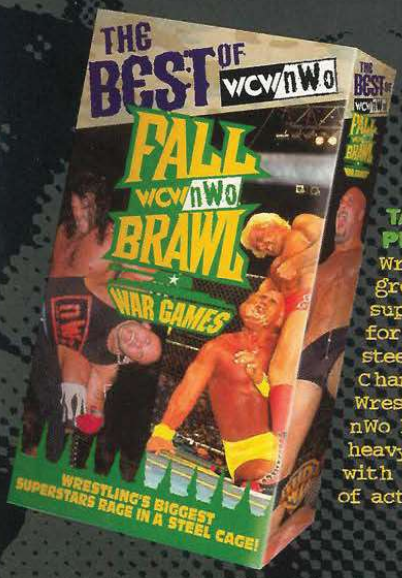

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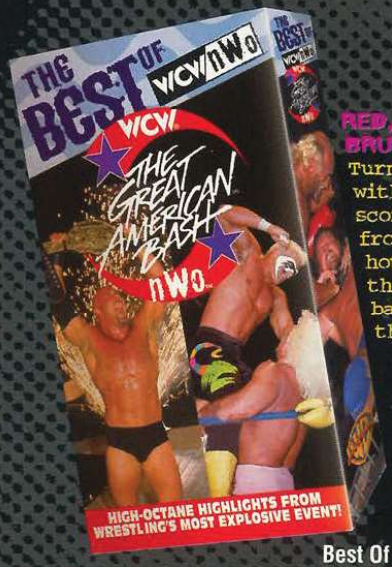

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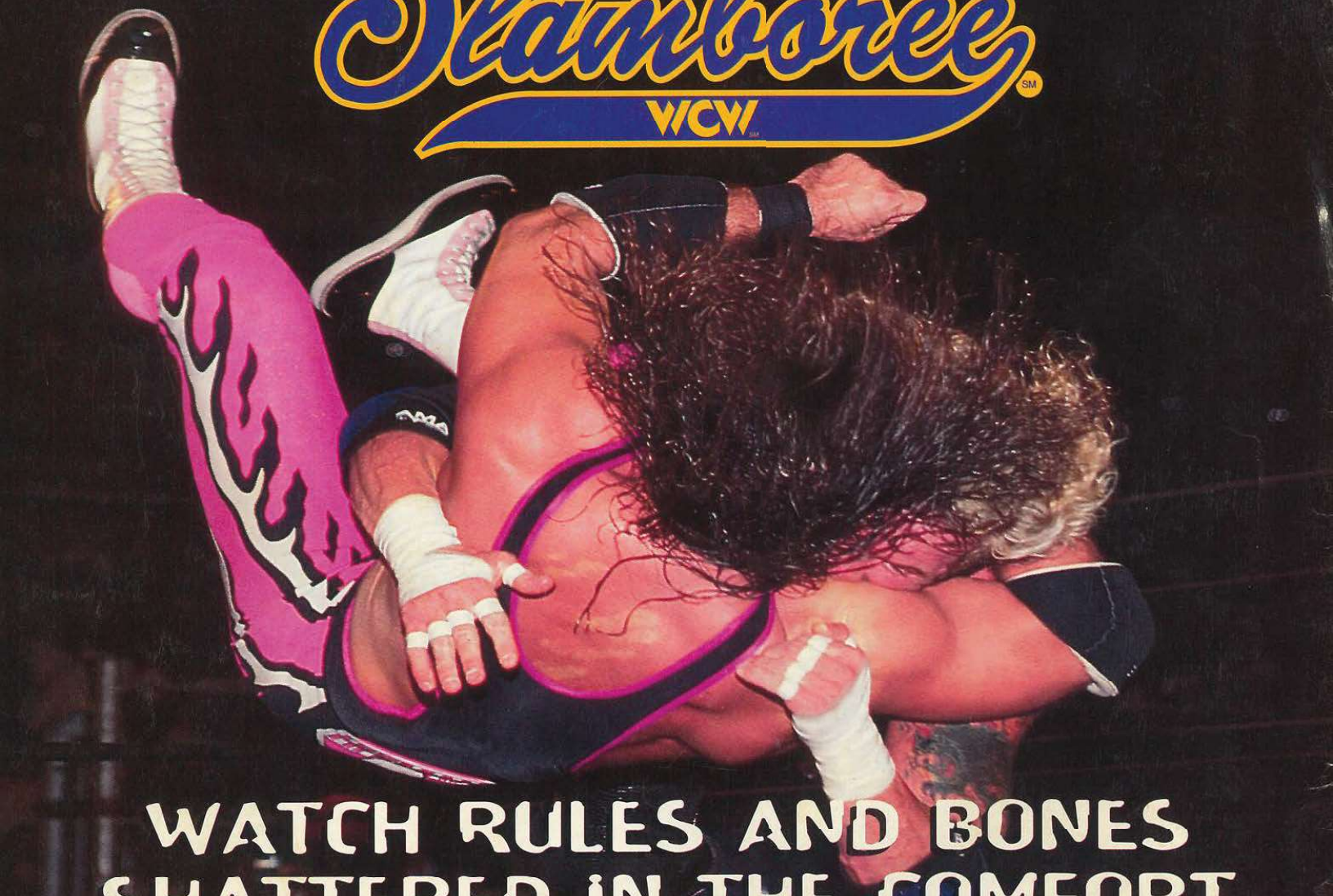

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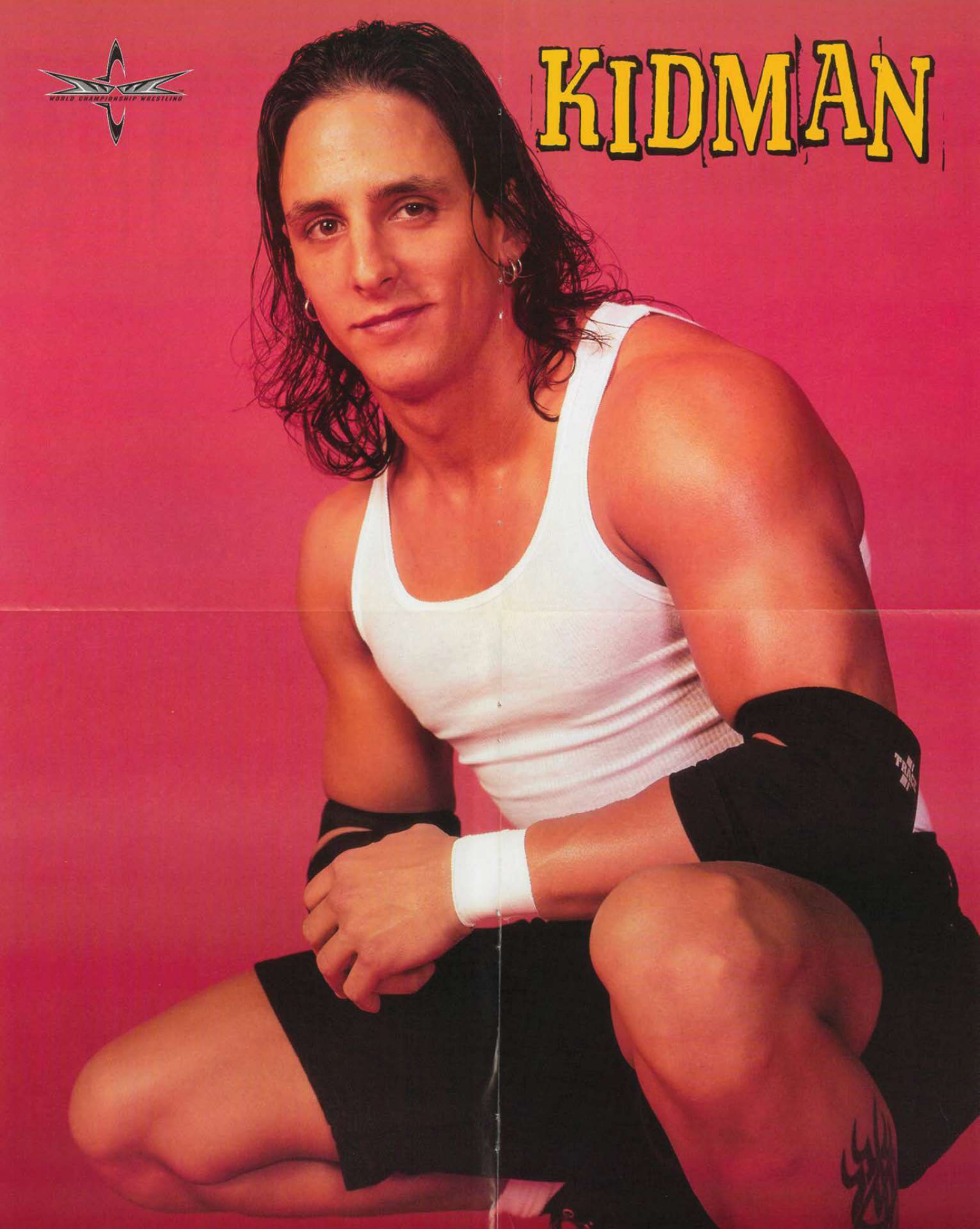
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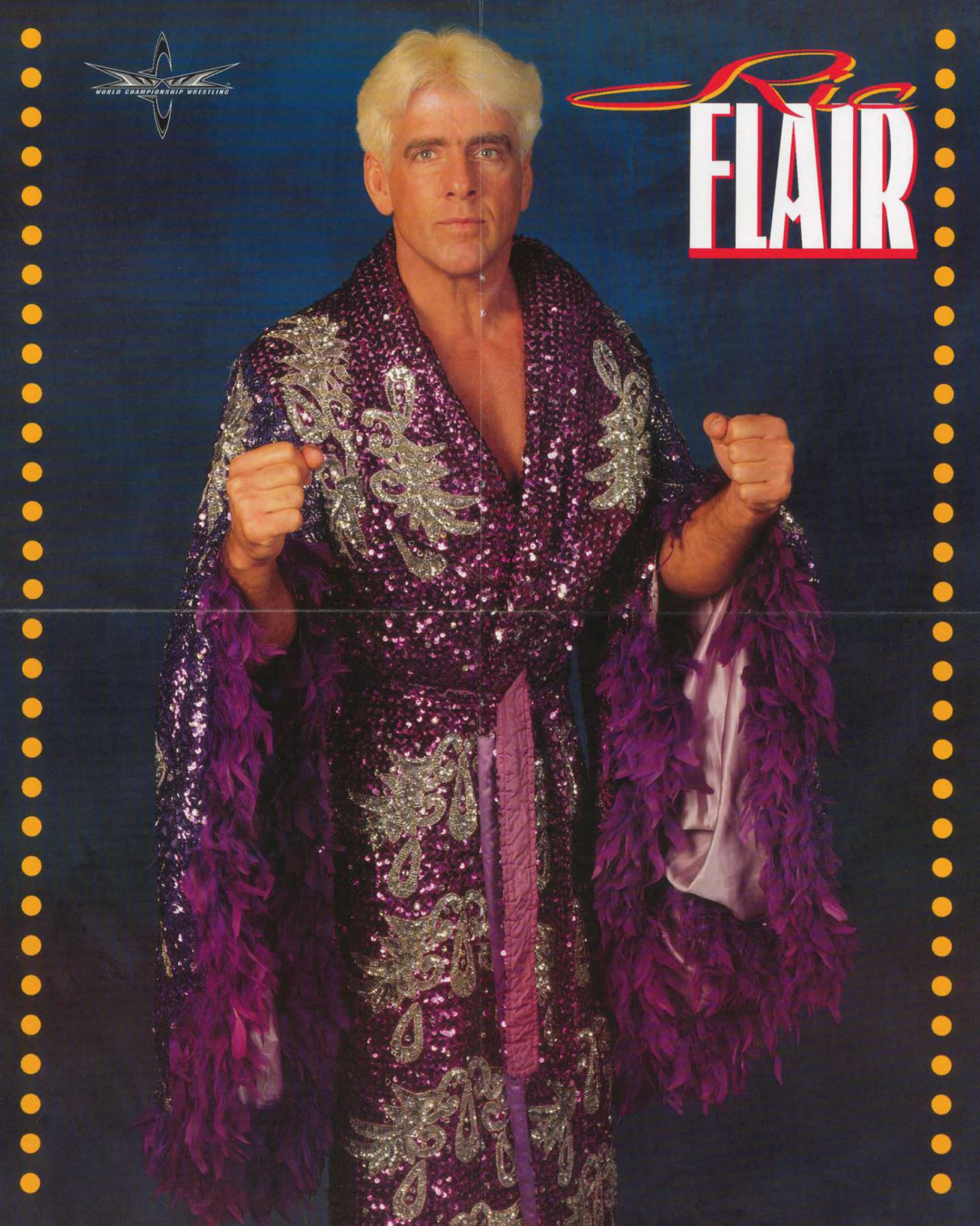
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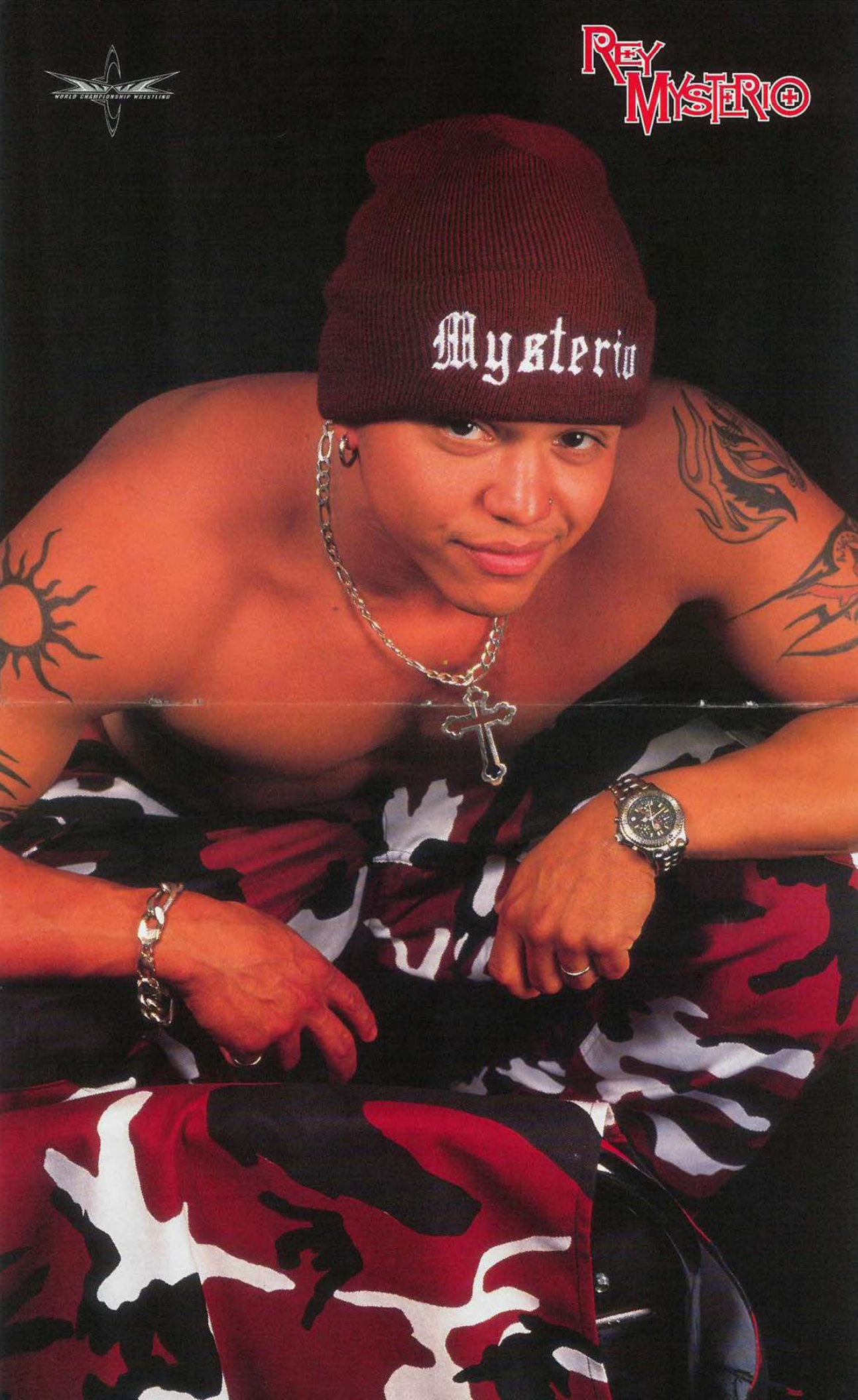
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